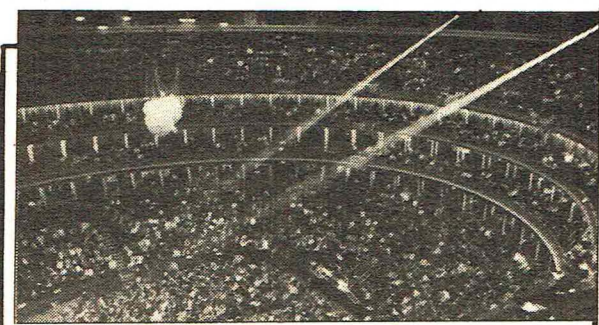


Militant

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The Marxist Paper for Labour and Youth 30p

ISSUE 823 14 November 1986



Rally pull-out—See pages 7, 8, 9 and 10

Tories create school crisis

Impose wage deal,... more strikes,... cuts...

EDUCATION Secretary Kenneth Baker's unprecedented threat to impose a salary and conditions deal on teachers, over the heads of their unions and the local education authorities, is just the latest attack by the Tories on Britain's schools.

By Bob Sulatycki
(West London NUT,
personal capacity)

Baker, who like every other member of Thatcher's cabinet sent his children to fee-paying schools, is not prepared to fund a settlement to the two year old teachers' dispute, which will allow teachers to properly fulfill their obligations to the pupils.

Even the watered down demands of the teaching unions' leaders for a maximum class size of 26, free time for teachers to prepare lessons and mark work and guarantees about the number of days teachers are expected to cover for absent colleagues, would cost £300 million says Baker, and is therefore unacceptable.

But is it educationally acceptable for school students to be in over-size classes where learning is impossible, or for the teachers to be forced to contend with large numbers of extra pupils because another member of staff is ill?



Teachers lobby the Nottingham talks between their unions and the employers.

A massive increase in school funding and teacher numbers is therefore urgently needed. But the crisis in teacher numbers is precisely because of the low salaries. There has been a 19 per cent drop in postgraduate teacher training applications. In Inner London, with the added burden of astronomical living costs, there is a critical shortage of teachers, particularly supply teachers.

Qualified teachers are leaving for better paid jobs, even as police constables. Baker complains of the lack of science teachers—they go into industry to earn more.

Resources crisis

But it is the education of millions of children that is suffering.

While the crisis in general resources is highlighted by

Exmouth Community College, the largest comprehensive in the country. Due to local and national spending cuts, it reported a £57,000 deficit in the Summer, and the parents had to be roped in to redecorate the buildings.

The Tories only answer is to force a wages diktat on the teachers. But they actually have to change the law to abolish the traditional

negotiating Burnham Committee. This is not only an attack on the teachers, but a threat to all public sector unions. While Baker imposes an arbitrary centralised agreement, Environment Secretary, Nicholas Ridley, is encouraging local authorities not to honour the nationally agreed rates for

(Continued on page 15)

Militant Fighting Fund

£250,000

250,000

240,000

230,000

220,000

210,000

200,000

190,000

180,000

170,000

160,000

150,000

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30,000

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10,000

SOGAT MEMBER
Brendan Risby from Manchester donated £295 towards our Fighting Fund appeal for a week's income.

A council worker in Nottingham has sent in his week's income of £77. Three new readers from Hucknall donated £175 between them.

Only three weeks to go. Rush in your donations. See page 5.

Militant MASS RALLY

ROYAL ALBERT HALL

London SW7 Sunday 16 November



Militant

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Militant, 3-13 Hepscoot Road, London E9 5HB.
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Lawson's creative accounting hides economic problems

THATCHER'S RE-ELECTION campaign has started. That is the meaning of the Chancellor's Autumn statement on government expenditure. After all the cuts and sacrifices of seven years of Tory austerity, Lawson's £10 billion increase over previous plans for public expenditure for the next two years, is being widely trumpeted as a 'U' turn.

His statement does confirm that the Tories have completely dispensed with Thatcherite monetarist doctrines as a solution to the nation's economic problems. In recent months the Tories have abandoned their fetish with money supply targets; they have allowed a sharp devaluation of sterling against other currencies, particularly the German mark; and they are presiding over a consumer credit boom running at a four per cent real increase annually. Now they have jettisoned a central plank of their previous policies: that public expenditure must be held constant in real terms, ie after allowing for inflation.

Why this new tack? Firstly, the Tories have been forced to raise spending because the cost of social security and unemployment benefits has rocketed despite efforts to reduce the value to each individual claimant—there are just more unemployed and needy. Secondly, Tory ministers of health, education, and local social services have been forced to concede some increases in spending to avoid a total collapse of services. This enforced spending is now being claimed by the Chancellor as a demonstration of a 'caring government!'

While this pre-election spending spree may be a U-turn from previously tight monetary policies, in terms of meeting the social needs of working people it is totally inadequate; and in some instances a carefully prepared pre-election con-trick.

Much of the planned increase in real spending has been created by huge cuts in subsidies to nationalised industries (down 22 per cent), halving of contingency funds for emergencies and continuing privatisation of state assets.

The Chancellor says that his extra spending will not be financed by "a penny piece of additional borrowing". Yet he will probably cut income tax by one or two pence in the pound next April to boost election hopes. That would almost certainly require borrowing *unless* there is extra tax revenue from VAT on consumer sales; more money from public asset sales; and no rise in interest rates or a fall in the pound. Apparently the Chancellor already plans an accounting trick by delaying repayment of a debt from British Gas until the next financial year to improve his figures. So he may be able to postpone his extra borrowing until after the election. 'Creative accounting' it is called, which the Tories have taken steps to curtail in local government.

But Lawson cannot hide the facts. The economy is heading for deep trouble. Next year the balance of trade and payments will be in huge deficit putting severe pressure on sterling. Any further fall in the pound will provoke a rise in prices and/or interest rates, further damaging the UK's already dismal manufacturing production and investment performance.

The economy will be lucky to grow at two per cent next year (let alone the Tory prediction of three per cent). Britain will be back into 'stagflation' ie stagnant production, rising unemployment and inflation.

Under Lawson's proposals the overall real increase in spending of two per cent is all piled into the next 15 months. After that spending will only rise by 0.2 per cent. Once the election is over, if the Tories are returned, there will be the cuts, wage restraint, and probably increased taxes. Lawson believes he can afford all this before the full impact of the brewing economic crisis bites, and by then he hopes the Tories will be safely back for another five years.

Unfortunately the Labour leaders' response to Lawson has been muted. When their moderate programme (designed for operating within the private enterprise system) is for an extra £28 billion in public spending over five years, he is stealing their clothes. When the Tories even before this latest gimmick are edging ahead in the polls, Labour should be reappraising its performance.

Professional packaging, delicate floral logos and the dropping of socialist commitments is convincing no-one. Ordinary voters need to be persuaded that Labour can deliver on jobs and living standards. This can only be done with a campaign of explanation of the necessity of a full socialist programme, as the alternative to the terminal decay of the capitalist economy.

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Knowsley North by-election

Neil Kinnock's secret rally

KNOWSLEY NORTH'S pre-election rally must rate as the most secret in history. In Liverpool, election rallies have been 1,000 plus strong and open to any party member or voter. Getting into the Kinnock rally in Kirkby was like getting out of Colditz.

Labour Party officials aided by lines of police turned away local party members and voters. Even the *Socialist Youth* reporter was "denounced" by Peter Kilfoyle, Merseyside's Labour policeman, pointing his finger with the comment "he is one of the comrades".

One pensioner who had walked to the meeting like everybody else because of a one day bus strike, showed her polling card "That's my entrance ticket isn't it? I'm a life-long Labour voter. My father brought me to Labour Party meetings before George Howarth was born."

But no, that wasn't good enough. Knowsley North Labour Party officers were denied admission as were a regional executive and regional women's committee member. Only three or four right wingers were allowed in from the local party. But Peter Fisher who fought and beat Labour at the last local election, had no difficulty getting in with all his family. The NEC has intervened to stop his expulsion.

Meanwhile, busloads arrived from outside the areas, Knowsley South, St Helens, Lancashire and the North West. Few invitations appear to have reached Liverpool—apart from two notables from the misnamed—and defunct—Liverpool Labour Left.

Only one person said how he got a ticket: "In the pub." Everyone else was tightlipped. Some previous activists in the miners' wives group in John Evans' constituency weren't too happy at going in through police lines—many demonstrators outside had faced the police with them in the strike.

Now police are being used to keep out Labour Party members. One blind man, the chairman of the local League of Blind and Disabled was dragged across the road outside by at least six policemen for trying to get near the door.

The wrong man!

Even in the handpicked audience the voice of protest was raised. Kinnock's reply was later featured on national news saying: "You may be able to get away with shouting where you come from but you've got the wrong man."

Unfortunately Kinnock got the wrong man. It was the local vicar who he was implying was a bully boy!

Kinnock has since threatened to take action against local Labour Party members. Through the press, he invited right wingers to come forward and denounce local members.



Neil Kinnock: Flower power image, belied by strong arm tactics.

He is obviously looking for an excuse to close the party in Knowsley North and begin a witch-hunt, because the anger of over 100 local

party members and people in the streets, is what Howarth and the NEC will face daily after the by-election.



Local party members and voters face an unofficial "picket line" of police outside Kinnock meeting in Kirkby.

Photo: Graham Smillie

Kilfoyle insults Irish socialist

RICHARD VENTON a *Militant* supporter an expelled member of the Labour Party on Merseyside has written to local Labour Parties complaining about chauvinist anti-Irish comments made by Peter Kilfoyle Labour paid official on Merseyside at the Knowsley rally. We reprint extracts below.

I SAID "I hope that when the by-election is over that you (Kilfoyle, eds.) will bring the 49 Labour MPs for a visit to Liverpool to show them what people have got there as a result of a socialist council and a socialist Labour Party."

His reply? "I wish you would frig off back to Belfast where you belong" (this is verbatim. It made an impression on my memory!)

I joined the Labour Party in 1971 on the day after I arrived in Liverpool from my native Northern Ireland. 99 per cent of party members have never made any anti-Irish comments to me in the 15 years I have been active in the party, even though many comrades disagree with my marxist views.

I find Peter Kilfoyle's remarks—which Kirkby Labour Party activists witnessed—deeply insulting.



Richard Venton has been a consistent fighter for workers' unity and socialism in both Ireland and Britain.

Tories, Liberals—and Labour right—given a bad time

A BBC debate between the Knowsley North candidates ended more like a riot. The 200-300 strong audience was overwhelmingly Labour.

Poor old Roger Brown, the Tory tried to convince them that the Tories had improved the NHS by ploughing money into it! One woman shouted "I've been waiting two years for a hospital appointment and I'll have snuffed it by the

time I get one."

Brown also tried to persuade us that nuclear weapons are needed. Another woman pointed out that her father had fought and survived World Wars 1 and 2 but nuclear testing had killed him.

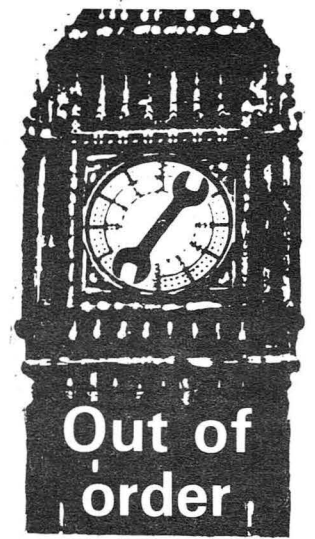
"Rosie" Cooper didn't fare any better. Her and Brown spoke of the awful housing conditions but did not say what would be done

about them, nor mention the record of the Tories or the Liberals in Liverpool of starving council housing of resources.

Cooper gave a figure of what the Liberals would plough into jobs—to the jeer of a mathematician in the audience "That's 75p a job". Howarth the imposed Labour candidate was probably glad he was still on his back in the hospital, despite

the Labour audience. John Evans MP his substitute said "There's only one man for Labour in Knowsley North" to which the audience replied "Les Huckfield".

People in Knowsley have no alternative but to vote Labour but the message to Evans and the NEC was clear. "Who are you, coming here to tell us who our candidate should be?"



Muggers gift

New sectarian danger in N Ireland

"ULSTER RESISTANCE" a new loyalist force "prepared to take direct action" to smash the Anglo-Irish agreement was formed last Monday at a behind-closed doors rally in Belfast.

Two thousand attended —by invitation only—including the leadership of Paisley's DUP and the sectarian Ulster Clubs. The platform was flanked by men in paramilitary uniform.

Those present were asked to give names and addresses and told they would shortly be interviewed about action. Ian Paisley said the new movement would mobilise "the men of Ulster into an organised and disciplined force, willing and prepared to take direction as and when required."

This is the start of a series of meetings across the north to swell its ranks. This development is an

ominous warning, as this weekend marks the first anniversary of the signing of the Anglo-Irish agreement.

The Unionist leaders have organised a mass demonstration at Belfast City Hall and expect 200,000 to turn out. A loyalist stoppage, commencing over the weekend, is also being discussed. This could last two days.

In the background the loyalist paramilitaries remain active. In Protestant working class areas and in workplaces such as the shipyards the UDA and UVF have reportedly stepped up activity in preparation for the situation to escalate.

Last Saturday the UFF (Ulster Freedom Fighters) planted six small bombs in Dublin's city centre, a number of which exploded. There were no casualties, but the UFF have threatened more bombs: these were seen as a dry run.

In 1974 over 30 people died when bombs were planted in Dublin and Monaghan.

This weekend and the coming weeks can see a new wave of loyalist violence. Sectarian killings, attacks and intimidations are possible. The existence of this new mass loyalist paramilitary force, could lead to a repeat of loyalist take-overs of villages such as Rasharkin and Swatragh, but with much more bloody consequences.

There could also be an escalation of the Provos' campaign. On Monday night an off-duty RUC man was shot dead. The recent Sinn Fein conference ended the 60 year 'abstentionist' policy of not taking their seats in the Dublin parliament. A section of the old traditionalists walked out to set up an alternative Republican Sinn Fein. Over the next few months the Provos will be out

to prove that they have not gone soft on the military struggle.

The next period will be one of heightened sectarianism. The failure of the leadership of the Northern Ireland committee of the ICTU, to offer a class alternative to the Anglo-Irish agreement and the sectarian parties and to provide workers' defence has allowed the initiative to return to the bigots.

Local trades councils, including Belfast Trades Council, are discussing how the trade union campaign against sectarianism, launched at the ICTU conference on 25 October, can be built upon.

The activists at local level must now take the initiative before the situation deteriorates further.

By a Belfast correspondent

FOLLOWING Chancellor Lawson's speech to the Commons on 6 November, Dave Nellist MP issued the following statement:

"After all the Tory cuts we have suffered, Lawson's 'u-turn' is like the mugger who steals a pension book and then gives the pensioner her bus fare back home.

"There's nothing charitable in Lawson's statement—the Tories still intend to reduce total public spending as a proportion of national output.

"The phoney pre-election spending is being financed by theft—the theft of the proceeds of public spending assets such as British Gas and Rolls Royce.

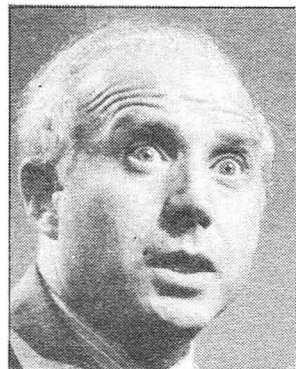
"Lawson talks of a £450 million increase in council house spending. That is only three times what Coventry alone needs to repair the damp and derelict properties which have developed over the last 10-15 years.

"But out of that money, Coventry doesn't actually get anything—except permission to borrow perhaps £3 or £4 million and the tenants are then left footing the bill of extra debt charges.

"The Tories have stolen over £100 million from Coventry in the last seven years. Rates have increased at twice the rate of inflation to pay for those cuts in grants. Lawson's announcement doesn't even give us our own money back."

Laird backs partnership CBI back the Tories

GAVIN LAIRD, AEU General Secretary, has been blowing on predecessor Sir John Boyd's sousaphone. At the CBI conference this week he asked of his audience: "Isn't it about time we spoke with one voice?"



Laird—astounded at the CBI being Tory.

This is the stuff they wanted to hear from the first ever trade union leader invited, and three times interrupted his speech with applause rounded off with a minute-long ovation. No looks of horror this time as there had been when the very mild worker participation outlined in the Bullock Report of a few years ago was debated.

"New-style unions of tomorrow were more in line with the needs and wishes of the bosses" declared Laird as he offered a 'partnership'. Some CBI members said they were delighted with this 'pragmatic' approach but "of course" said one "we'll still have to manage".

Last year the CBI had received Eric Hammond, Godfather of the EETPU, but turned down his application for membership. In recent years the AEU leadership has militated against the miners and the printworkers at TUC and Labour Party conferences. (See page 13).

Labour's Trade and Industry Secretary John Smith

visiting Bournemouth to 'build bridges' with the CBI was forced to pour scorn on the claim that the CBI was not politically biased. David Nickson, the CBI President, couldn't pull that political rabbit out of the hat after saying they would "fight and oppose" any attempt by a future Labour government to repeal Tory anti-trade union laws.

While Laird prattled on about unity, the CBI defended their class interests, praising the Tories record in government (failing to mention unemployment) and made the obligatory attack on "high pay rises".

With a general election in the offing, elaborate care was taken to sweep under the carpet any grumbles—such as high interest rates—which could be construed as critical of the Tories. This is the first time in seven years such a thing has occurred.

By Bob Stothard

Bosses' constantly booming incomes

THE Confederation of British Industry (CBI) claim that unemployment is due to "excessive wage rises."

It's an old excuse, of course. Last year Terence Beckett the director-general called for no wage increases unless they were linked to increased output. Workers were "being paid too much."

This is nonsense. Richard Balfe Labour Euro MP has produced figures showing that wages and unit labour costs in Britain are lower

than any other EEC country except Ireland.

Beckett last year called for leadership in the struggle for 'realism'. The new issue of *Labour Research* shows the 'lead' CBI leaders are giving on pay. They have awarded themselves a 14 per cent pay increase in the past year, that excludes any income from dividends. That comes to an average £204 per week.

They are complaining about a £5.58 rise for manual workers and £5.12 for clerical workers in recent pay deals (about six per

cent).

Three of the 62 bosses with top CBI positions have doubled their pay or more. Mark Southaemi of Dixons trebled his pay to £292,500 and Sir John Egan of Jaguar has doubled his pay.

Egan was recently chosen as an example of an intelligent boss by the *Sunday Mirror*. He is certainly no mug at looking after number one. And he doesn't seem worried about "pricing himself out of a job". That threat is only for his employees.

COHSE members call for fighting lead



Local COHSE members organised a protest against planned cuts in services at South London psychiatric hospitals, Maudsley and Bethlem last Monday. Roy Hattersley joined the march as it passed Labour's headquarters.

THE NEW General Secretary of the health union COHSE is the right wing former assistant general secretary Hector McKenzie.

Kevin Mullins the Broad Left candidate came third. He was the only non-national officer in the top five, with over 10 per cent of the votes.

Broad Left supporter

Mick Griffiths commented "we went into the campaign knowing our forces were weak but we got a very creditable result in a union which allows no campaigning but allowed their favoured candidate to do a national speaking tour.

"Kevin Mullins spoke in many regions and has gained new support."

At the Broad Left conference last weekend Kevin Mullins was chosen to fight the election for assistant general secretary, which will be held at some time before next May. The new young faces at the conference showed the prospects for building a real fighting union.

In Brief

LAWSON CLAIMS housing expenditure is to rise by 11 per cent in real terms over the next two years. But he fails to mention that at the same time *total* local government spending will be cut by 12 per cent in real terms in the same period. And government spending on housing will never meet the estimated £20 billion required to repair and maintain existing housing stock.

LAST WEEKEND'S Labour Women Wales conference saw a doubling of last year's delegates and important gains for the left.

The demand for a guaranteed job and proper training for all school leavers was supported and the youth delegates got the day's most enthusiastic applause.

Conference recognised that only a socialist form of production could eradicate low pay and poverty. It also completely rejected wage restraint and incomes policy which ever government is in power.

Tories' racist lies

BLACK PEOPLE are the first section of our society to suffer attacks on their living standards. Racists blame blacks and Asians for unemployment yet the rate of unemployment amongst the black population is likely to be twice as high as among white people.

According to a recent survey the rate of unemployment amongst blacks in 1984 was 20.4 per cent compared to 10.6 per cent amongst their white counterparts.

Pakistanis and Bangladeshis suffer the worst unemployment—a rate of 30.6 per cent. However, amongst black youth those of West Indian origin suffer an even greater rate of unemployment than white or even Asian youth.

The number of unemployed black women went up from 15,000 to 74,000 between 1978 and 1983, during the same period unemployment amongst women generally doubled from 373,400 to 886,000 now.

A survey carried out in 1983 showed that, on average, black workers were earning £109 per week. Asians £111 and whites £129.

Through the visas controversy, the Tories are using black and Asian workers as a scapegoat for the ills they have heaped on all workers. Some 80 per cent of black voters supported Labour in 1983. They won't back capitalist parties like the Tories but they can not be treated like canvassing fodder, wooed every five years



Photo: Mark Saill

The Tories used the visas controversy to stir up racism and divide the working class.

then forgotten.

Mr Kinnock's advisers tell him to follow capitalist policies so moves to improve the lot of the working class are ditched. One of the casualties is immigration policy where Kinnock says immigration controls are necessary: they should just be 'fairer'. Labour's leaders should follow the lead of the Labour Party Young Socialists and fight for socialist policies, combat racist immigration policies and fight for the rights of black and white workers.

The Tories' use of racism has put black and Asian

communities at particular risk. The Labour movement must lead a fight back by both black and white workers against fascist thugs and growing police intimidation.

Racial attacks

Bradford North LPYS have argued for the Labour local authority to set up monitoring centres in Bradford and Keighley. These would allow victims of racial violence who for obvious reasons, see no point in reporting attacks to the police to report in con-

fidence and ensure something is done.

The centres would also monitor racist and fascist groups' activities and report to the labour movement to take action.

Racism only benefits the Tories and the bosses. The Labour movement must be seen to be leading the fight against the capitalist system which tries to split workers and unemployed people on racial lines.

By Hamid Khayam
(Bradford North LPYS)

Militant

International Review

Labour in government

LABOUR'S 1986 Annual Conference appeared to confirm the ascendancy of the right-wing.

Liverpool's *Militant* supporters were expelled and Kinnock made it clear that Labour will make no promises about what a Labour government can do—and yet he received a ten minute Tory-style standing ovation.

The Autumn edition of *Militant International Review* analyses in depth the underlying forces in the class struggle that were not reflected in any way at this year's conference but which will come to the fore in years to come.

New crisis

An article by Ted Grant on the experience of the Labour governments of 1929 and 1945 shows that the next Labour government will be faced with a world economic crisis compounded by the weakened position of British capitalism.

That is why Kinnock wants to make no promises. Yet that will not save Labour's leaders. They will be subject to intense pressure from the ruling class to backtrack on even the limited reforms they are committed to, while the working class will expect everything just because Kinnock has not been specific about anything.

In such a situation the

Labour government will be in crisis and inevitably attempt to carry out big business policies. That will dramatically alter the mood of acquiescence within the party, opening a new swing to the left in which Marxism will grow in strength.

What will unfold with the election of a Labour government is a theme which will be pursued in future issues of *MIR* during 1987.

By Bob McKee



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Bradford debate

"VISAS FOR five countries" Pat Wall PPC Bradford North, Geoff Lawler Conservative MP for Bradford North. Sunday 23 November 3.00pm. Lapage School, Barkerend Road, Bradford 3. Organised by Bradford North Labour Party Young Socialists.

End the boycott of Sam Bond

AN ARTICLE in *New Society* on 24 October focuses on a report by the Federation of Black Housing Organisations (FBHO) on the plight of Liverpool's black population.

The report was written by a well-known supporter of the Black Caucus, a self-appointed clique of 'Community workers' in Liverpool. It's whole object was to blame the level of discrimination experienced by Liverpool's blacks on the 'Militant controlled' City Council.

Ironically, this housing association report makes no comment on the fact that Liverpool City Council has built more houses in Toxteth where the majority of blacks live, than other councils have built altogether! As for the FBHO they put the national figure for the number of houses built by all the organisations affiliated to them at a maximum of 200!

The article ignores this stating that "the *Militant* run council's race policies have made things worse." According to the FBHO "twenty specialist posts for which the now defunct race-relations sub-committee obtained 75 per cent Home Office funding have not been filled."

In fact all these posts were approved by the council but they have not been filled because, at the insistence of the Black Caucus, the Liverpool NALGO leaders have boycotted these posts. The NALGO leadership and the Black Caucus have also blocked every attempt made by the council to improve the proportion of blacks who



Sam Bond

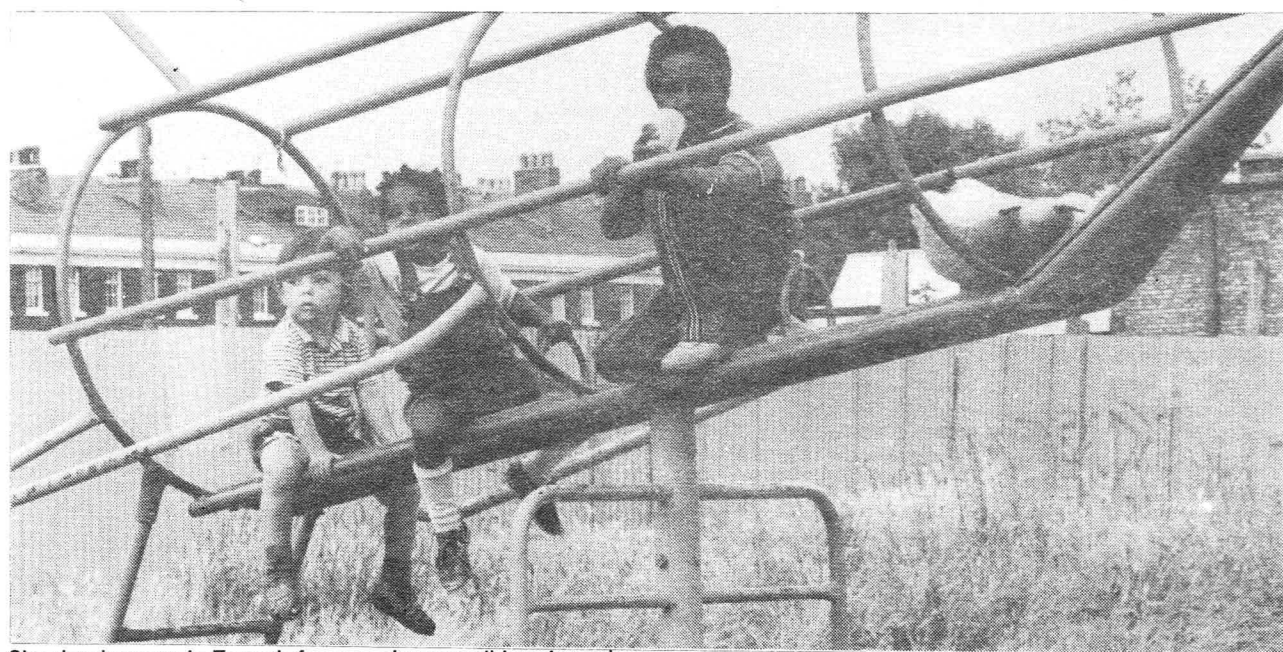
work for the authority (which stands at about one per cent).

Liverpool's Labour leaders want that figure to be far higher, and where the boycott has not operated, marvellous results have been achieved.

Wrecking

Recently 18 blacks were taken on as Housing Maintenance apprentices. Twenty per cent of the YTS allocation (paid at union rates) was also black. Under the Liberals the number of blacks in receipt of home helps and meals on wheels was 0.3 per cent, this administration has brought that up to 13 per cent, a higher proportion than the black population in Liverpool.

Since Sam Bond's appointment as Principal Race Relations Advisor to the council, the Black Caucus and the local NALGO leadership have tried to frustrate the council's policy on race relations. They



Site development in Toxteth for new city council housing scheme.

hoped that these wrecking tactics would make it virtually impossible for the council to carry out their policies, presenting this 'failure' as evidence as to why a Black Caucus supporter should be appointed.

At one point Liberal councillors joined 'picket lines' with some of the Black Caucus and NALGO leadership to prevent the Equal Opportunities Committee from meeting to discuss proposals for increasing black employment in the council's workforce! They were the very same Liberal councillors who called for troops to be sent into Liverpool 8 during the riots of 1981!

This relentless campaign has been conducted because on the one hand the NALGO leadership had no

stomach for a fight on the recent budget battle. It was a means of creating an artificial dispute with the council to provide them with a radical sounding excuse to withdraw from Liverpool's battle. On the other hand for the Black Caucus it was simply a matter of one of their supporters not getting the job as PRRA.

Examples?

The Black Caucus control the majority of Race Relations jobs in Merseyside. It has not made one iota of difference. The now abolished County Council had a fully staffed Race Relations Unit headed by a Black Caucus supporter, yet the percentage of blacks in its workforce was 0.5 per cent—far worse

than that of the City Council.

The Black Caucus call Littlewoods, the city's largest private employer "a shining example for all Liverpool's employers." Yet out of a workforce of 8,000 only 42 are black. Fine example!

For the Black Caucus Littlewood's is a "shining example" because the Littlewoods Community Relations Officer is a leading supporter of the Black Caucus who has been in the post for the last five years!

At the House of Commons select committee on black employment in Liverpool, this Officer was asked why he had not managed to substantially improve the figures for the number of blacks employed by Littlewoods, he replied: "You

can't expect me to go into the community and drag people off the streets."

The employment prospects of Liverpool's black community can be improved. But Sam Bond must be given the chance to fulfill the city council's policy free from the NALGO boycott, and Liverpool council's fight for resources must be given full backing.

Contrary to the intentions of the *New Society* article the employment problems faced by the black community are a condemnation of the role of the "Black Caucus" and a vindication of the attempts of the council to improve the position.

By Colin De Freitas

Warning: medicines can damage your health

A MAJOR drug company has been accused of trying to suppress research which showed one of its products was dangerous and ineffective.

Sterling-Winthrop asked heart specialists at St Thomas' Hospital, London, to test their new drug, Amrinone. They claimed it was a big advance in the treatment of congestive heart failure.

In this condition the heart does not beat strongly enough to pump the blood properly around the body. It is very common and often leads to a slow death.

A new treatment that strengthened the heart-beat without serious side-effects, would be sure to have huge sales around the world. The drug company that made it would stand to make millions of pounds profit.

Research threat

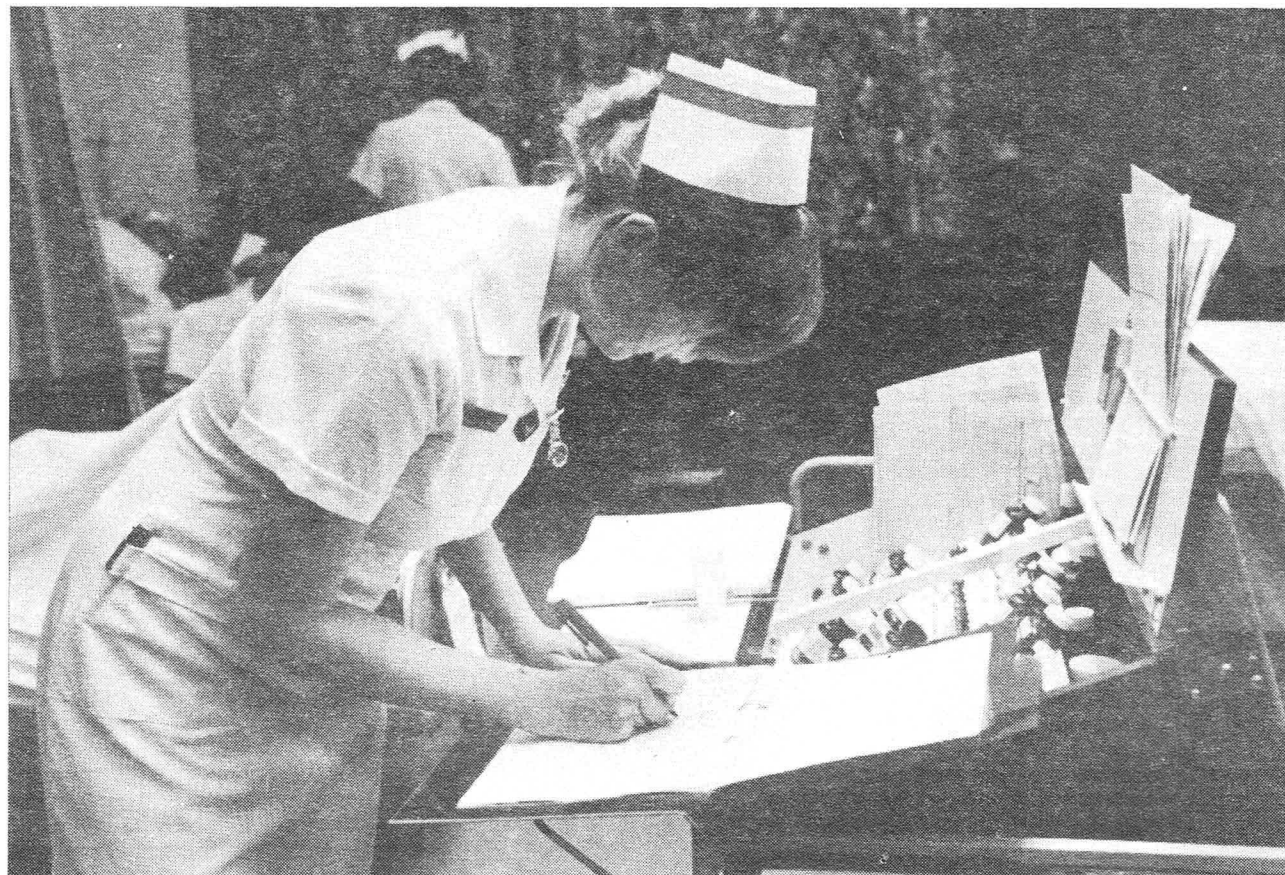
Sterling-Winthrop had invested heavily in Amrinone. Stock market analysts predicted sales world-wide of \$500 million a year. Any research which questioned its effectiveness would therefore be a considerable threat to the company.

The tests at St Thomas' showed that over half the patients given Amrinone developed serious side-effects. Furthermore, it failed completely to produce the benefits that Sterling claimed.

The doctors who carried out the research allege they were pressured and threatened by the company.

Firstly, Sterling allowed them to believe that Amrinone had been given safety clearance for clinical trials by the DHSS. In fact, no such clearance was given.

Secondly, when the doctors found serious side-effects, they immediately informed Sterling. But Sterling failed to promptly inform the Committee on the Safe-



Hospital nurse on the medicine round, but do the drug companies put patients first?

Photo: Militant.

ty of Medicines, in breach of the law.

Thirdly, when the doctors publicised their findings in medical journals and at an international medical meeting, Sterling claimed the research was inaccurate and threatened legal action.

Finally, after the findings were publicised a Sterling-Winthrop executive removed supplies of Amrinone from the hospital, without the doctors' knowledge.

The DHSS, normally so eager to ensure the law is upheld when dealing with claimants, has said there is not enough evidence to prosecute Sterling-Winthrop.

Because of government cut-backs in the NHS and the immense wealth of the drug companies, more and more research in British hospitals is being funded by these companies.

They can make huge profits from successful drugs. This is not the first time attempts have been made to suppress damaging research. Fortunately, on this occasion, thanks to the St Thomas' doctors, Sterling-Winthrop was unsuccessful. (Amrinone had been approved by the governments of South Africa and the Philippines!) On other occasions the cover-up succeeded, un-

til there were too many victims to hide—Thalidomide is the best known case, where the children born to mothers who took the drug whilst pregnant, had missing or deformed limbs.

'Safe' drugs

Once a drug has been approved as safe, on the basis of research, enormous sums of money are spent on advertising and promotion, to get doctors to prescribe it.

Such promotion includes free meals at expensive restaurants, gifts and even free trips to 'conferences' in exotic foreign beauty spots.

Much more is spent on this promotion than on research.

The Labour Party must use this and similar incidents to expose the way the sick are manipulated by big business. The pharmaceutical industry made £200 million profit last year out of the NHS. The drug companies must be nationalised, without compensation except to small shareholders in genuine need. Research could then be organised to meet the needs of the sick and not the profits of the rich.

By John Dale
(Bolsover CLP)

IN SEPTEMBER 1986 it emerged that two firms, Schering and Wyeth had hidden allegations that one of their researchers, Professor Briggs had faked data which minimised the risks of low-dosage contraceptive pills.

The firms which produce Trinordiol and Logynon, knew over a year ago that his results were suspect, but did not inform the Department of Health, the Committee on the Safety of Medicines, or doctors.

They withdrew references to his research (which they had financed) from their brands, but doctors prescribing the drugs were not informed of the manufacturers' doubts.

Although the professor's research was not the only findings taken into consideration by the companies, his findings, which repeated the results of larger studies, purported to show that low-dosage pills were safer than high-dose products and caused "less metabolic disturbance", and meant that the products were chosen in favour of others on the market and in particular a rival low-dose pill Norethisterone.

Attractive

Drug companies have an interest in making their products as attractive as possible, because of the killing they make from the NHS every time a doctor begins prescribing their particular brand.

The manufacturers have now agreed to inform doctors of their allegations, and Wyeth have said doctors will be advised to take alternative sources of information into account when prescribing drugs!

This incident shows how competition between companies in drug manufacturing puts the health of millions of women at risk, in their efforts to improve their sales and profits. This may only have been an isolated incident, but because these research projects are carried out privately in the interests of particular companies, it makes fraud and the selective use of results possible.

By Anne Lewin

Left and Right

Short term investment

FOR THE capitalist in your life this Christmas, why not buy a 100 year subscription to the Wall Street Journal?—yours for £4,300. Whether Wall Street's wheeler dealer shenanigans will still be going on in 20 years time, let alone a hundred is a matter of argument.

Not common...

LITTLEWOODS POOLS millionaire Peter Moores is a former governor of the BBC. Having stopped giving encouragement to what Tebbit sees as moral degeneration and left wing extremism, he is now a reformed man, fighting for home, family, and rural peace.

With another Old Etonian he is opening an estate agents in Mayfair. "This is no common or garden agency" he says. "We're handling country houses, sporting estates and agriculture." Moore himself owns a manor house in Lancashire, a home in Central London and five houses in Barbados.

...but plenty of garden

MR MOORES could probably start in New York. A four storey furnished

apartment overlooking downtown Manhattan is up for sale. The interior includes antique furniture and bathrooms decorated in gold and ivory. There is a 14,000 square foot roof garden. It's a bargain at £17 million...excluding rates.

Crick—a pain in the neck

MARY WHITEHOUSE had been due to speak in an Oxford Union debate in favour of press censorship, alongside Victor Orlik, London editor of *Soviet News* and *Soviet Weekly*. She changed her mind, so did *Pravda's* London correspondent Arakadi Maslennikov who said that censorship in Britain was "wrong, futile and empty" though in the Soviet Union it was, he claimed, "necessary for the public good."

Who came along and helped out Mr Orlik's Stalinist apologetics? According to the *Daily Telegraph* it was Michael Crick, of Independent Television News, the self styled expert on *Militant* who defends democratic institutions from "extremism". Who does Mr Crick want to censor? The BBC? *Militant*? We think we should be told.

Making our way where?

ANYONE LOOKING for clear socialist answers from Neil Kinnock's just published, first book, *Making Our Way*, will be sadly disappointed.

On the capitalist market economy: "But the market is potentially a powerful force for good... Competitive markets can stimulate innovation and productive efficiency, and provide an economic environment in which individuals can experiment, and pursue their own economic ideas."

On the nature and causes of the capitalist economic crisis that a Labour Government will inherit: "The blame cannot be laid at the door of history, or the world slump, or the oil boom itself. It is Margaret Thatcher and her minions who must bear the blame."

On the overwhelming problems that led to the defeat of the French Socialist government, trying to operate within a capitalist

framework: "A particularly impressive example of commitment to the long term... the French government maintained its ambitious programme for industrial modernisation (the destruction of jobs in steel, coal etc—ed)... the Mitterand government, when faced with short-run difficulties, had the courage to keep its industrial and R&D investment going even though this meant cutting the rate of growth of consumption (workers' living standards—ed). The results were politically painful even though the steadfastness was essential to the medium and long-term economic interests of France and the French people."

Unfortunately while mentioning Aneurin Bevan's book *In Place of Fear*? Neil seems to have forgotten what he wrote himself in the introduction to the 1978 edition of Bevan's work: "The self-proclaimed social

NEIL KINNOCK



democrats in Labour, Liberal and Conservative parties, quail at the very thought of anything more radical than an ameliorating rearrangement of society. They try to cajole capitalism into growth and responsibility whilst defending it as a virile guardian of liberty and mainspring of development. Their belief that they can make multinational corporations give priority to the demands of democracy is as hollow as the idea that bookmakers are in business for the advantage of the punters."

By Kevin Ramage



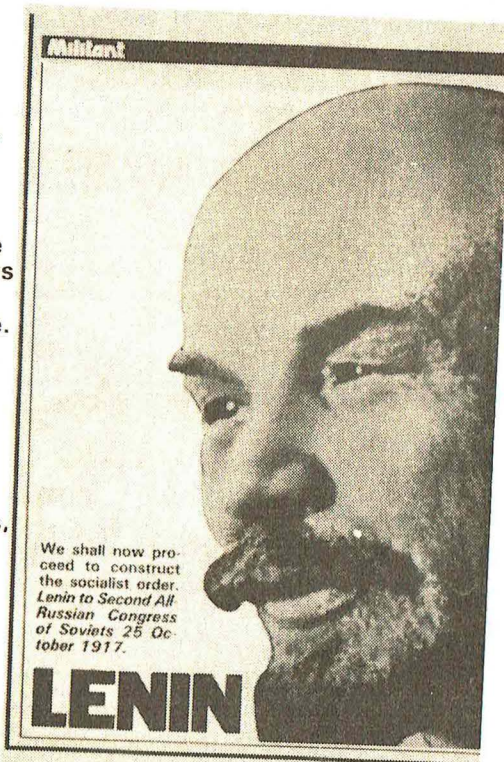
Red Flag

The peoples flag is deepest red,
It shrouded oft our martyred dead,
And their limbs grew stiff and cold,
Their heart's blood dyed its every fold,
Then raise the scarlet standard high,
Beneath its shade we'll live or die
Though cowards flinch and traitors sneer,
We'll keep the red flag flying here.

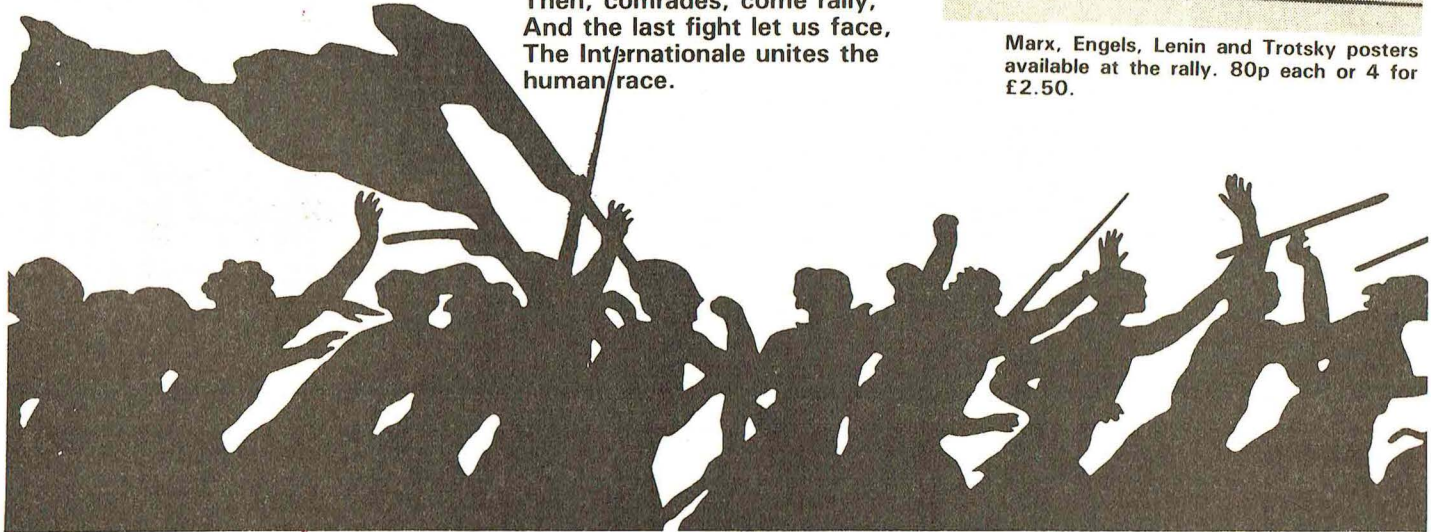
Internationale

Arise! ye starvelings, from your slumbers;
Arise! ye criminals of want,
For reason in revolt now thunders,
And at last ends the age of cant,
Away with all your superstitions,
Servile masses arise! arise!
We'll change forthwith the old conditions,
Spurn the dust to win the prize.

(Chorus)
Then, comrades, come rally,
And the last fight let us face,
The Internationale unites the human race.



Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky posters available at the rally. 80p each or 4 for £2.50.



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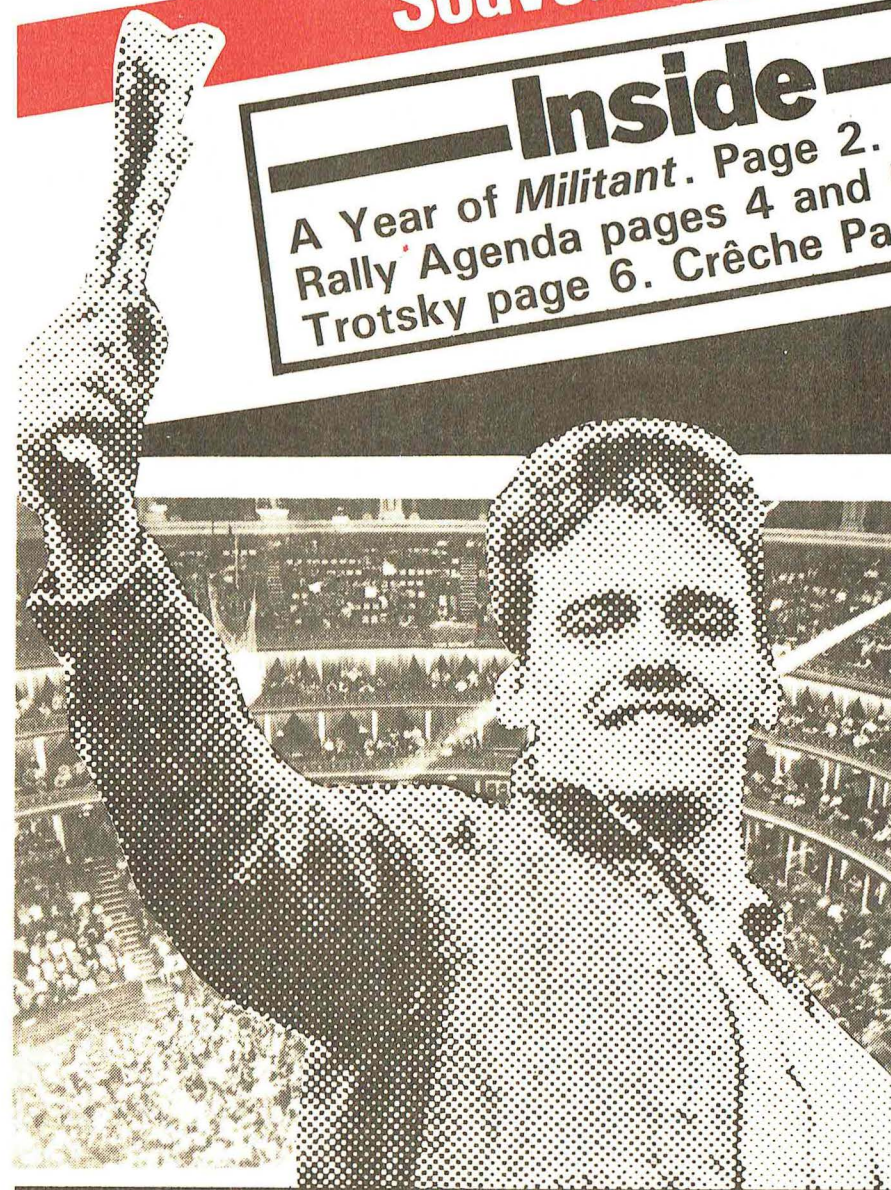
Militant

Souvenir programme

80

Inside

A Year of *Militant*. Page 2.
Rally Agenda pages 4 and 5
Trotsky page 6. Crèche Page 7



Why I'm coming to the Rally

KAREN CARR, of East Leeds Young Socialists, said "I'd only just become involved at the time of last year's rally. In fact I've just held a social to celebrate one year in the Labour Party Young Socialists, an event that raised £80 for the *Militant* Fighting Fund."

Karen was so determined that she got to this year's rally that she sold her ticket to a UB40 concert. "It's a big sacrifice," says Karen, "but I'm sure it will be well worthwhile just to hear the comrades from South Africa and Derek Hatton who spoke at a YS rally in Leeds this May. That gained us many new YS members, and some of them are jumping at the chance to come to hear the brilliant speakers at this year's rally."

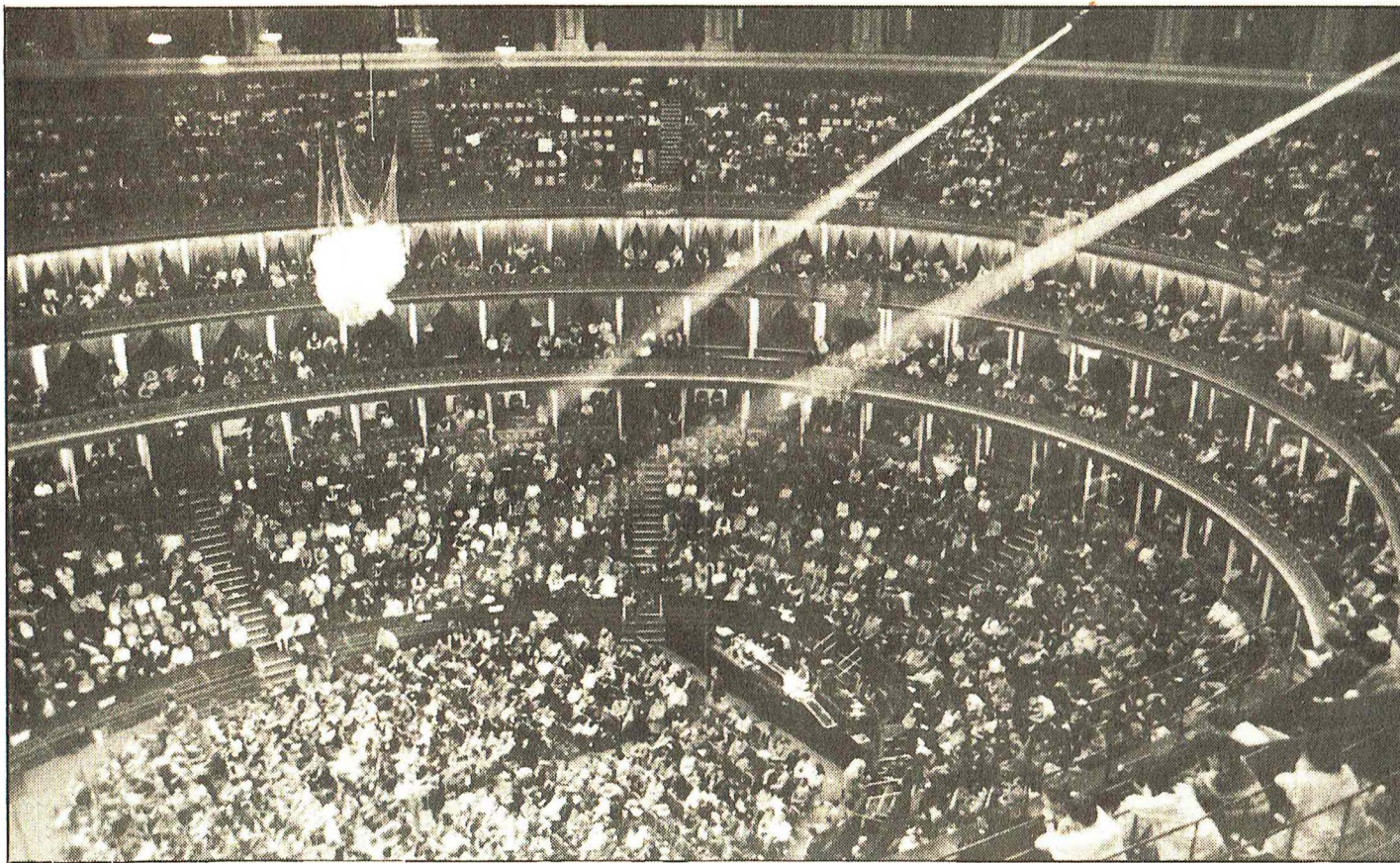
ROYAL ALBERT HALL

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Sunday 16 November



1986 - The year of Militant

A YEAR ago the political pundits were predicting the death of *Militant*. Neil Kinnock, after his disgraceful attack on the Liverpool City Council at the 1985 Labour Party conference, promised to 'marginalise' *Militant*.

However, this year's rally at the Royal Albert Hall will be *Militant's* proof that, in the words of Mark Twain: "Reports of my death are greatly exaggerated"!

The last twelve months have seen the most furious barrage of press propaganda, lies and distortions ever levelled against a section of the labour movement. The attacks against the leadership of Liverpool City Council and on the *Militant* are only paralleled by those that were aimed at the miners.

Blow after blow has been aimed at supporters of *Militant* in Liverpool, in the CPSA, in local right wing constituency Labour Parties around the country. But these have completely failed to undermine the growth of Marxist ideas. Instead, one year on, *Militant* is laying the basis, through an appeal to all its readers to donate a week's income, for the production of a more frequent paper.

Liverpool witch-hunt

Last November, Liverpool City Council was forced to make a partial retreat after the disgraceful failure of the Labour and trade union leaders to assist the fight for more cash for the city. Taking their cue from this, before the ink on the budget settlement had even dried, the Labour Party National Executive Committee embarked upon one of the most shameful chapters in the party's entire history.

Goaded on by the Tory Press, it set up an 'inquiry' into the Liverpool District Labour Party on the basis of gossip, lies and fabrication. No lie was too big, no charge too outrageous, no allegation too fanciful to throw at the DLP. There were sinister smears about physical threats, "safe houses", and "dossiers" to be handed to the police. Roy Hattersley made his shameful comment about "literal and political corruption" which was never backed up with evidence then or since.

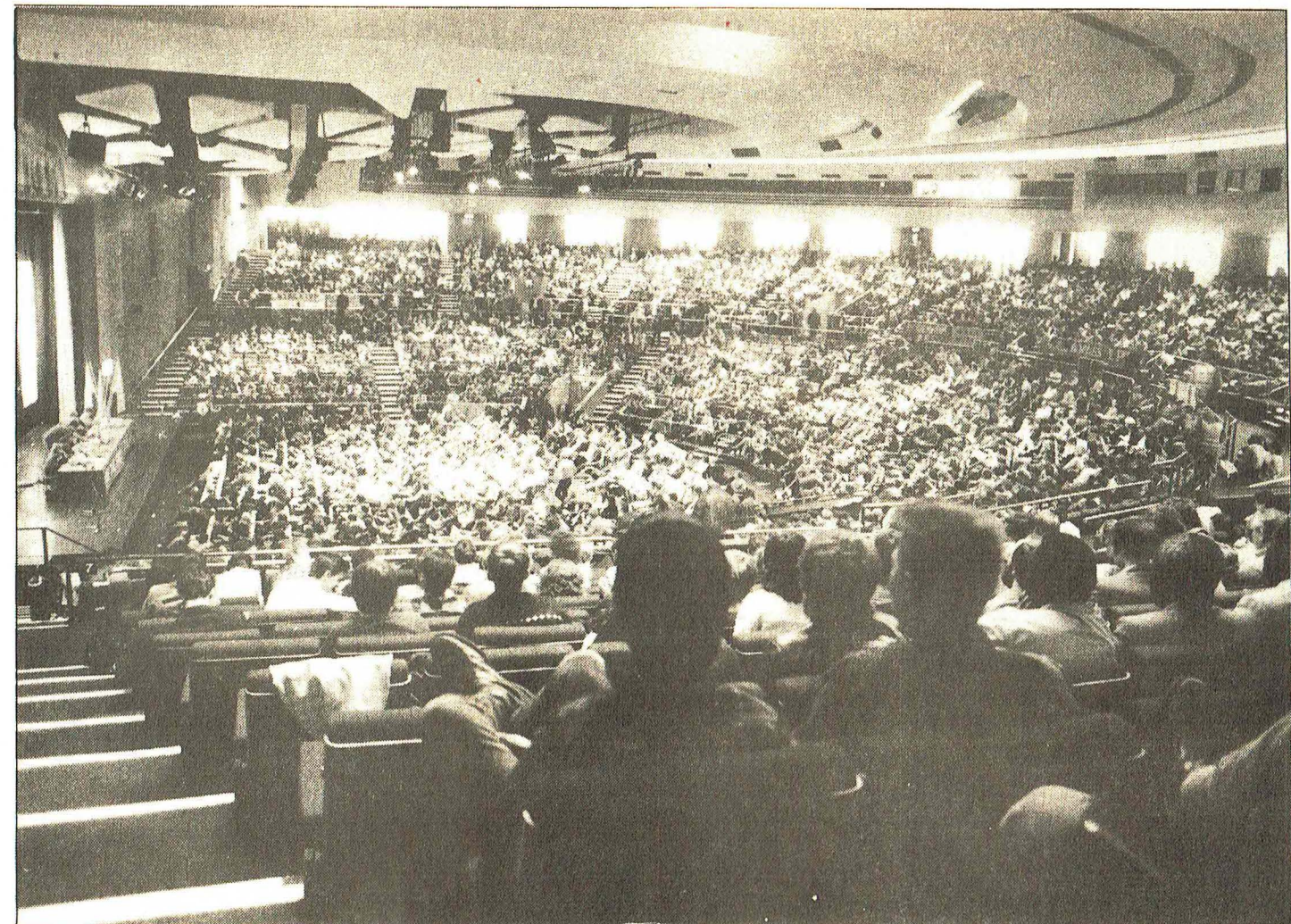
It has now become clear to the overwhelming majority of party members that the sole purpose of the inquiry was to create a pretext to expel *Militant* supporters from the Party.

But if the right wing thought they would have a 'quiet kill' they had a rude shock awaiting!

After £32,000 of the Labour Party's money was spent (not including legal fees and party officers' time), after several special National Executive meetings, some going on into the middle of the night, the right wing have finally succeeded in expelling nine comrades with a combined 150 years membership in the Labour Party.

It was, as Tom Sawyer admitted in February, the only way they knew to combat Marxist ideas: "I defy anyone to tell me how you can go to Liverpool and defeat *Militant* by argument", he said.

Similarly, the ex-lefts of the Labour Co-ordinating (or Careerist!) Committee admitted "A theory of organisational conspiracy... has limited explanatory power. *Militant* has very deep roots in the Labour Party, and has gained considerable respect for its commitment and its association with ridding the Party of the discredited right-



The first *Militant* Rally in September 1983 had 2,900 in attendance at the Wembley conference centre. The following year (photo above) had 3,000 and the 1985 Rally in the Royal Albert Hall had 4,500. In three years the Fighting Fund collection increased from £5,800 to £13,000 to £26,587. 1986 will see a Rally bigger and better than ever before.

Crèche Facilities

A MASS rally would not be complete without a well organised crèche.

Up to 300 children will be coming with their parents to the Albert Hall on 16 November. This is more than many schools would cope with and so over 40 professional staff have been engaged for four separate crèche rooms.

In the *Prince Consort Room* in the Albert Hall itself, there will be a nursery for children up to three years of age. This room will also have an area for nursing mothers to sit if necessary. It would greatly help the organisation of the crèche if parents could bring a bag containing enough nappies, food, including bottles and at least one change of clothing.

Older children will be based in the building immediately next to the Albert Hall. There will be rooms for different age groups, from three to six and from six upwards. Weather permitting, there will be a trip to Hyde Park for football or rounders and there will also be indoor games on the day.

A room has been put aside as a video lounge for feature films and cartoons. In the afternoon there is a trip to the Science Museum and its newest exhibition called "Launch pad", with

exhibits and demonstrations specifically designed for children from six upwards.

Squash and biscuits will be provided but, due to the large numbers involved, it will not be possible to provide all the food the children might require so parents should bring enough for their own children.

The crèche will be open from 11.15am until 6.30pm so parents will be able to enjoy the start and end of the rally. It will remain open during the lunch break but it would give the staff a welcome break if parents did collect their children during this period. We will be issuing a special ticket to the parents on registration and the child will only be released from the crèche on presentation of their ticket.

All parents should report to door 6 where they will be directed to the relevant crèche. Parents from London and those without tickets will be able to get them at a special desk situated by door 6 so that they can gain quick access to the crèche.

The crèche expenses amount to over £1,500, but this is included in the general running costs of the rally and there is no special charge to parents. If possible parents should register their children in advance by using the crèche booking form available from local sellers or by phoning the Rally Organisers. The more children are registered in advance, the better prepared we will be for looking after them on the day.

From page 3 of programme.

A week before the rally, *Militant* supporter Kevin Mullins came third in the ballot for general secretary of the health union, COHSE. His 10 per cent of the vote beat two national officers of the union.

One of the most shabby features of the witch-hunt has been the attempt of the right-wing to "rule or ruin" the Labour Party Young Socialists. The attacks on the LPYS, led by former left Tom Sawyer of NUPE, are justified, he claims, on the basis that the LPYS is "small" and "out of touch." So out of touch is the LPYS, that it organised for Moses Mayekeiso (General Secretary of the South African Metal and Allied Workers Union) to make the first address in recent years by a trade union leader from South Africa to an official Labour movement conference, at Easter.

Despite bureaucratic obstacles, and repeated cuts in finance (The NEC spent *four times more* expelling nine Liverpool socialists than it gave to the *whole national LPYS* for campaigning work), the LPYS continued to extend its activity, culminating in the events building up to and on the October 18th March, attended by 10,000. This march, which *Militant* supporters played a key role in building, was the first national demonstration organised by any section of the Labour Party since 1982.

In the period after the Russian Revolution, the British press reported on dozens of occasions the death of Lenin or Trotsky. The 'death' or 'demise' of *Militant* has been predicted with the same monotonous regularity in the last 12 months. But while every other political current in the labour movement is divided or in crisis, *Militant* has gone from strength to strength. This year's rally will be the biggest yet. For the future, "You ain't seen nothing yet!"

Film: 'The Great Frame-up'

The film to be shown in the afternoon of the Rally will include an account of the Moscow show-trials of fifty years ago. It will include rare footage of Trotsky himself, defending his record against the lies of the Stalinists.



wing machine. Furthermore its workerist, bureaucratic, but anti-capitalist policies have great appeal among many party members in the city." This of course did not prevent them from producing pages of tittle tattle, to provide the bullets for the right wing of the NEC.

Militant supporters have, quite correctly, fought every inch of the way against their expulsion. It was only through legal challenges that the right wing were prepared to grant even a semblance of 'natural justice'. Even then, as most Party members knew, the 'verdict' of the NEC hearings were a forgone conclusion.

These 'trials' were a formality to back up the sentences decided in advance. An impartial observer, Quentin McDermott of the *New Musical Express*, attending the hearing for the expulsion of Cheryl Varley. He commented, "what evidence there was was at best arguable, at worst flimsy; the voting . . . predictably pre-ordained."

In protest at the NEC witch-hunt, hundreds of meetings were organised up and down the country. The huge rallies held in several cities were the biggest meetings of the labour movement outside of elections for years:—

- 1,300 in Glasgow
- 1,200 in Edinburgh
- 1,200 in London
- 1,000 in Newcastle
- 900 in Birmingham
- 800 in Manchester
- 600 in Neil Kinnock's Islwyn constituency
- 1,000 in Sheffield
- 700 in Bradford.

This is not counting numerous rallies in Liverpool itself! Over 50,000 have attended *Militant* rallies and readers' meetings in the last 12 months.

In contrast, meetings organised by the LCC and "Liverpool Labour Left" in Liverpool attracted a dozen or two, often including many *Militant* supporters!

The results of the May local elections were a complete vindication of the stand taken by the Liverpool council. Against the most vicious press barrage, against the Liberals and Tories, against their own party leadership and with members expelled and the Party suspended, Liverpool Labour retained the loyalty of local workers to hold control.

The rabidly anti-Labour *Liverpool Echo*, commented: "However experts may analyse the votes, there is not a shadow of doubt that Liverpool's Town Hall election results were a success for *Militant*."

"...nowhere else were the local issues more sharply defined and more important than in Liverpool."

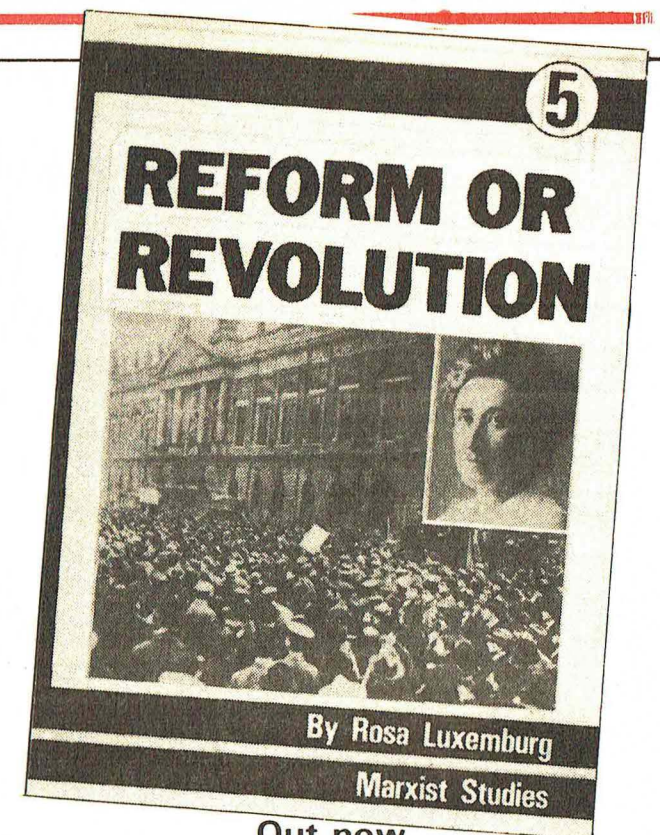
"No Scouser could have been under any illusion that a vote for Labour in this city yesterday was a vote for *Militant*."

Trade union elections

Despite the crude smears and witch-hunt directed at *Militant*, especially in Liverpool, support for the paper has continued to grow.

In the election for president of the South Wales NUM in December 1985, *Militant* supporter, Ian Isaacs has the key demand "For a miner's president on a miners wage" removed from his election leaflets by the NUM area executive. Despite this political censorship, and the fact that the two other candidates were well established left wing officers of the union, Ian got 23 per cent of the first ballot votes.

In the Spring, *Militant* supporter Phil Holt, standing as Broad-Left candidate, challenged John Golding for General Secretary of the National Communications Union. Then came the resignation of right-wing Alistair



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Graham, General Secretary of the Civil and Public Servants Association. Undoubtedly the growing anger of the rank and file of the union made Graham feel uncomfortable, and encouraged him to go. Nevertheless he clearly felt his "follower in waiting", John Ellis, would walk the election. Indeed, the *Daily Mail* knew so: "Right-winger John Ellis has trounced Trotskyist John Macreadie in the election to become general secretary of the Civil and Public Servants Association." (*Mail* 30/6/86).

The next day it was announced that *Militant* supporter John Macreadie had won! Commenting on the impact of his commitment not to take the General Secretary's salary, the *Financial Times* commented, "The gesture seems to have been a master stroke in a union where the average take-home pay of adult members is less than £90 a week."

The true respect of the right-wing for union democracy was shown when the CPSA executive refused to endorse John's appointment, orchestrating a campaign of allegations about "ballot-rigging". After an inquiry these charges were completely rejected by the Electoral Reform Society. However, now a re-ballot is to take place, the rank and file must ensure that the right wing get their just deserts as they did when they attempted to reverse Ron Todd's election as General Secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union.

Continued on page 6 of programme.

Doors Open at 11am

Morning

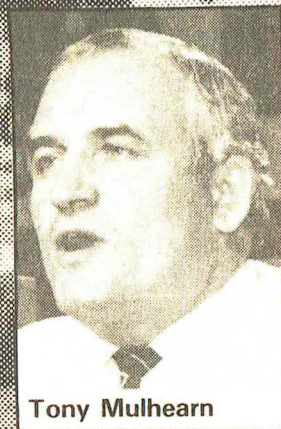
Rally Opening

Chair: Rob Sewell

Film: "1986, The year of *Militant*"

Tony Mulhearn

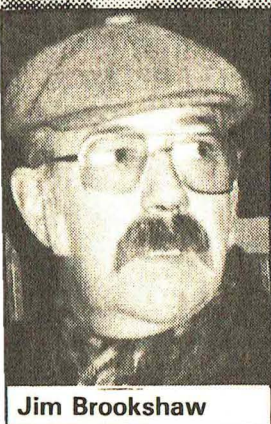
Expelled Labour Party member, President, Liverpool District Labour Party



Tony Mulhearn

Jim Brookshaw

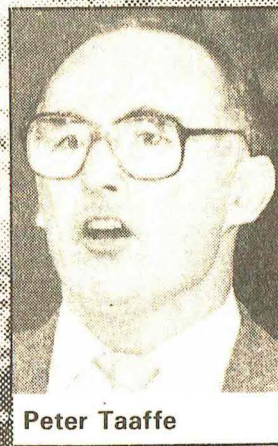
FOC AEU on the *Times*, sacked by Murdoch



Jim Brookshaw

Peter Taaffe

Editor of *Militant*



Peter Taaffe

Ragged Trousered Cabaret

Skint Video

Break, about 2.30pm



Skint Video

Finish 6pm

Afternoon

Chair: Clare Doyle

Film: "The Great Frame-up"

Ted Grant

Political Editor of *Militant*

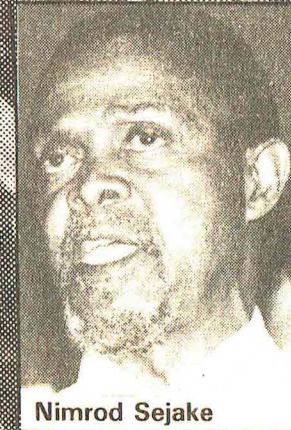


Ted Grant

Financial Appeal

Nimrod Sejake

Exiled South African Trade Union leader



Nimrod Sejake

Paper Appeal: **Jeremy Birch**

Doreen Purvis

CPSA National Vice-President



Doreen Purvis

Derek Hatton

Expelled Labour Party member, deputy leader Liverpool City Council



Derek Hatton

Closing Ceremony

Red Flag and Internationale

USA, South Korea, Sudan, Molotov

'Reagan revolution' over

LAST WEEK'S elections effectively ended President Reagan's right-wing domination of the US legislative process. With the Republican majority in the Senate reversed, Reagan has lost a major power base in his anti-working class crusade.

Massive unemployment (still over eight million), astronomical military spending (projected at \$650 billion for 1988/9) and brutal cuts in services for workers and the poor, combined with aggressive foreign policies to back up the interests of US big business abroad, have been hallmarks of the Reagan years. The rich in general, and the "military-industrial complex" in particular, have been the beneficiaries.

But there has been a price to pay for Reagan's spending bonanza. A huge and chronic budget deficit has been run up, reaching \$221 billion in 1986. Despite every effort to massage it down, economists concede that the real deficit will again be at least \$200 billion next year.

The situation is effectively out of control. To reduce the deficit significantly would explode the bubble of public and private spending that Reagan's limping boom has been based on.

To finance the deficit, the US has had to borrow abroad—turning the US into the biggest debtor nation in the world, pushing up interest rates and creating a deficit in foreign trade that has been running at \$12 billion-\$18 billion per month

By George Collins

this year.

Despite Reagan's mindless "optimism" about unending boom, economic growth is at a snail's pace of little more than two per cent per year. State after state has already moved into recession. It is in these states that the voters' rebellion against the Republicans has been strongest.

Reagan himself embarked on an unprecedented campaign, travelling 25,000 miles through 22 states, trying to bolster the Republican vote. He failed. In this sense the election result was a vote of no confidence in Reagan himself.

Radicalisation

The "Reagan revolution" is over. Far from bringing about an "irreversible shift" to the right, it has created the conditions for new explosions of struggle and political radicalisation. Thatcher, take note!

The writing is now on the wall for the Republicans in the 1988 presidential election.

Even more significant (but not mentioned in most daily



Reagan promises tax cuts—for the rich. Income tax for the top bracket has been reduced from 50 to 27 per cent. Corporate tax has been cut by \$170 billion since 1981, and 90,000 companies pay no tax at all.

papers) was the turn-out of voters—a mere 37.3 per cent, the lowest since 1942. This reflects the underlying reality of the elections: workers need the Republicans out, but the Democrats offer no alternative to rally their support.

The Democrats, the other

party of big business, will pursue similar austerity policies when in power and faced with the new, severe recession which is already looming on the horizon.

The American working class is the only force that can save US society, and the world, from the grim future

threatened by the decaying system which both the Republicans and the Democrats represent. The statement by US trade unionists, reprinted below, shows the growing understanding of this task among conscious workers and youth.

Workers call for party of Labour

OPEN LETTER to AFL-CIO President Kirkland from Local 444 of the million-strong American Federation of State, Municipal and City Employees (AFSCME), reprinted from the American socialist paper *Labor Militant*, October 1986. (The AFL-CIO is the American TUC.)

Dear Brother Kirkland, "No more TWA's, Greyhounds, PATCO's" (or Hormel's, we would add). (These were important strikes that ended in defeat, but could have been won if effective support had been organised by the national union leadership—*Editor*.) This is now the call of the AFL-CIO Executive Council, according to a recent article in the AFSCME Leader (union paper).

AFSCME Local 444 applauds this call, as well as the decision to form a subcommittee with the sole purpose of developing a strategy to combat the increasing attacks on organized labor...

In order to make this fully effective, we feel the following steps should be taken:

Labor should start with the position of no more concessions... The AFL-CIO should fight for jobs for all through a shorter work week—32 hours work with no loss of pay—and a living minimum wage—\$10.00 per hour!

On this basis, we would win the support of the unemployed, the underemployed and the unorganized workers.

To win these demands, we

must, as the article says, "bring union busters face to face with the full power of organized labor." This can only mean that mass picketing must play the key role in our offensive...

No-strike clauses, anti-labor laws and injunctions should be brushed aside. Unions were illegal when they were first started and weren't built by obeying the law.

Political

This struggle should then be followed up in the political arena. The growth of anti-labor laws and rulings has continued unchecked through Republican and Democratic administrations alike. We see no reason why the workers of the US should not have their own political party based on the trade unions.

Through a Labor Party, the power of big business to destroy our great industrial centers, destroying the lives of millions of workers and their families ... could be taken up and effectively dealt with.

Fraternally yours,
David Richardson
Recording Secretary



Boston, November 1983: Over 5,000 workers march in support of the Greyhound strikers, fighting the company's demand to cut wages and benefits by 25-30 per cent.

STOP PRESS: Union leaders of 7,500 Greyhound workers this week agreed to further wage cuts of up to 30 per cent. This has still to be put to the vote.

V. Molotov (1890-1986)

BBC RADIO Four's obituary of the late Soviet Foreign Minister, V. Molotov, was misleading from its first words: "With Lenin, he was a leader of the Russian revolution..."

More accurate was the description of Molotov as a lifelong henchman of Stalin, accused by Krushchev in 1956 of personally drawing up death lists during the

purges of the 1930s.

Molotov like most leading Bolsheviks, was caught unprepared by the revolution in February 1917, and allowed power to pass to a capitalist provisional government. Lenin totally opposed this on his return from exile and, with Trotsky, fought for a workers' government on a socialist programme.

Of Molotov's brief "leadership" in 1917, Trotsky writes: "...even the central Bolshevik staff, composed of Shliapnikov, Zalutsky and Molotov, was amazing in its helplessness and lack of initiative..."

A worker-Bolshevik, Kayurov, recalls: "Absolutely no guiding initiative from the party centres was felt..."

For the media, Molotov's death is another opportunity to link up the Bolshevik Party of Lenin and Trotsky with Stalin's bureaucratic regime, which usurped power in the 1920s.

The most that can be said is that Molotov was one of the very few old Bolsheviks who proved sufficiently adaptable to find a niche in the Stalinist machine, and to die a natural death. This is perhaps his main claim to fame.

Students take action

South Korea

STUDENTS IN Britain may well have been shocked by vivid TV images of students at Konkuk University in Seoul, South Korea, besieged by riot police equipped with teargas, water cannon and helicopters.

These events highlight the crisis within the regime of President Chun Doo Hwan. His promises of reform have evaporated, and the use of the draconian National Security Law against student demonstrators has shattered any remaining illusions in him. He is simply the latest in a long line of petty tyrants imposed on the South Korean people through covert US action.

What is unfolding now in South Korea constitutes the beginnings of a revolutionary situation. The potential power of the South Korean working class, one of the most oppressed and exploited in the world, is beginning to manifest itself again.

"Anti-American"

Even the *Daily Telegraph* reported on 1 November: "students have joined with workers in protest movements. These have become more violent and marked increasingly by an anti-American dimension".

Over 1,000 arrests have been reported. But the methods used by the police have not quelled the student demonstrations. On the contrary, they have provoked more. At Seoul National University—the 'Oxford' of South Korea—1,200 students clashed with riot police while at Yonsei University another 100 were besieged by police last week.

Chun has denounced the students as "pro-Communist", playing on the paranoia of the South Korean ruling class about infiltration by the Stalinist regime in North Korea. If convicted, arrested students face the possibility of life imprisonment or the death penalty.

Marxists in the National Union of Students, especially delegates at the coming national conference, must press for messages of solidarity to our comrades in South Korea.

By Andrew Sinclair

Sudan

IN KHARTOUM, student demonstrations erupted again last week against rising prices and food shortages—the same issues which sparked off the revolutionary movement that toppled the Nimeiry regime in April last year. Five people were reported injured when police opened fire with teargas and bullets.

Don't deny abortion facilities

Dear Comrades,

I agree with Ann Farmer's comment (*Militant* 821) that the lack of resources for care of premature babies is an indictment of capitalism.

Marxists also struggle harder than anyone for a socialist society where many of the reasons why women seek an abortion—bad housing, poverty, illness, inadequate contraception etc—would be eliminated.

However, I disagree with Ann Farmer's comments which imply money spent on NHS abortion facilities is wasted. We still live in a capitalist society where life is a nightmare

for many women.

The passing of the Abortion Act and the provision of abortion on the NHS, totally inadequate though it is, was a step forward since women will seek them in any case.

Those who, like Ann Farmer and the Labour Life Group object to abortions are under no compulsion to use the facilities, but we oppose their attempts to deny facilities to other women.

Yours fraternally
Ann Bannister
National Womens' Committee

Profiteering danger

Dear Comrades,

I was very pleased to see an article on NUPE in *Militant* 821. I would like to congratulate all the people involved both at Scarsdale and the other hospitals mentioned in their determination to save jobs and rid the health service of profiteering private contractors.

Practically all jobs done by our members are increas-

ingly becoming privatised. I believe the only answer for our members lies with the programme of the NUPE Broad Left, that there should be a linking together of all local struggles, to form a national response from our union.

Yours fraternally
R Ashley
Erewash NUPE

The Tory Morality

Dear Comrades,

Militant 821 doesn't give Jeffrey Archer half the credit he deserves for exposing Tory hypocrisy when it comes to 'morality'. The way the Tories behave proves they don't care about the nonsense preached from the pulpits every Sunday anymore than we should.

So why all the sermons from Tebbit, Baker etc. about the family? Because the ruling class need the family to care for the young, the old and the sick while they attack the welfare state. They bolster the family by their policies because people have nothing else they can turn to for help.

Yours fraternally
Andy Crabb
Islington NALGO

Schizophrenia

Dear Comrades,

After watching *Schizophrenia* (Channel 4) I feel disgusted at the way the mentally ill are treated. Many of the patients on this programme had spent time living rough after leaving hospital and some had been to prison as the only alternative to this.

Any system which can condemn people to this must be wrong. It is imperative that the next labour government enacts a socialist health policy under which decent hospital and post-hospital care including the provision of decent housing and jobs can be guaranteed.

In this way we can help the mentally ill to regain some of their own self confidence and identity.

Yours fraternally
Alex Greig
Dundee

Letters

Send us your views, comments or criticism.

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

Caring gas?

Dear Comrades,

In the TV adverts about the sale of British Gas we are told we will soon be able to share in the profits of the caring gas-board.

My grandma and her husband have already received their share.

About a year ago my grandma's husband was involved in a gas explosion when he was showing a gas engineer a faulty gas fire in one of the flats where he was caretaker.

When he opened the door and turned the light on there was a big explosion. He got his clothes and hair blown off, his hands and arms were severely damaged. He is in his fifties and will never be able to work again.

After the explosion they were forced to move because they could no longer look after the block of flats. They applied for compensation and as yet have received nothing.

On top of the stress of the year long battle for compensation and the forced moving, my grandma had to look after her husband. They are now dependent on social security and my grandma has just suffered a major heart attack. She was moved out of hospital after only two weeks because the hospital was under-staffed.

So much for the adverts of 'caring' British Gas.

Name withheld
West Yorkshire

Slogans, Slogans.

Dear Comrades,

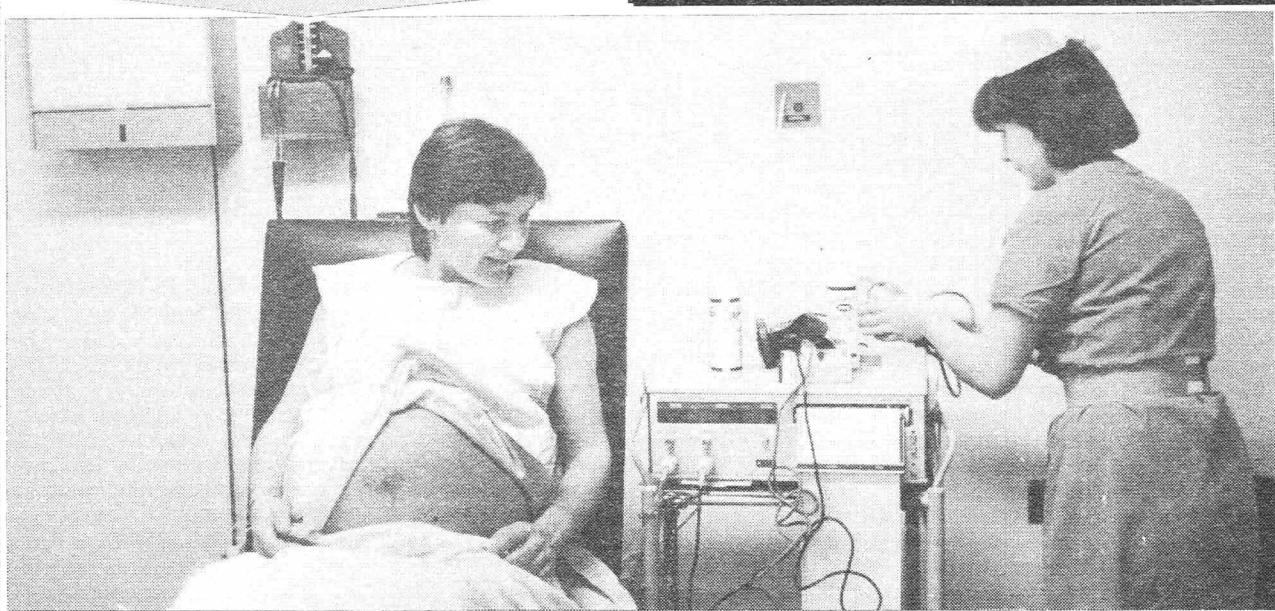
Monday 3 November, at the University of Kent, the statement "fight racists with socialist arguments" proved to be the most logical conclusion.

Kent University Conservative Association's invitation to Michael Waddington, Home Office Minister for Immigration, proved the NUS policy of "No platform for racists and fascists" to be totally inadequate.

No plan of action could be defined from this ambiguous policy. Not only did the union fail to adequately organise a demonstration, but also ignored a resolution calling for the mobilisation of students and campus workers.

Yours fraternally
Antigone Bracken and
Amanda Payne
Darwin College, Kent

No blankets, gauges or monitors...



Dear Comrades,

I thought I would write to you about the birth of my daughter. The nursing staff and doctors of Stepping Hill hospital, Stockport could not be faulted for the care and dedication shown.

However, three ludicrous situations occurred which illustrate the way Thatcher's cuts are crippling the NHS.

My wife needed her blood pressure taken and the gauge used was describ-

ed as "being from the ark" by the doctor.

A nurse had to make three frantic searches of the hospital before she could find a heart monitor which was working.

Most ludicrous of all, about half an hour before my daughter arrived, I was presented with a baby blanket and told "guard it with your life" as other nurses were seeking blankets.

Sure enough, while my wife was in

the delivery room a nurse appeared frantically searching for a baby blanket.

All this occurred at a maternity hospital which is supposed to be one of the best equipped in the North West.

Yours fraternally
John Humphries
Hazel Grove
Labour Party

Inflexible 'Friends'

Dear Comrades,

When in 1980 all restrictions on bank lending were lifted, the country was swamped with easily available loans, credit card facilities and mortgages on low security.

The *Financial Times* (16 October) showed that "in the year to March 1986, 103,000 households in England and Wales had their electricity cut off for failure to pay bills, a rise of 13 per cent on the previous year.

"Gas disconnections rose by 12 per

cent and there have been cases of water being cut off, previously virtually unheard of.

The number of houses taken into possession by building societies has increased from 2,500 in 1979 to 16,800 in 1985 and further since then. It is expected that as many as one in 20 householders are two months or more behind in mortgage payments."

Yours fraternally
Peggy Elliot
Nottingham

Positively Shh! You know who!

Dear Comrades,

While organising a womens' conference in Newham, the organising committee agreed to invite Linda Douglas, the Young Socialists representative on Labour's National Executive Committee.

However, supporters of *Labour Briefing*, objected to the inclusion of Linda's position on the NEC being included on the leaflets. Why? Because it appears that the use of such labels is intimidating towards other women.

It seems that for these advocates of positive discrimination, getting women in positions in the labour movement is great, so long as you don't tell anybody!

Yours fraternally
Ruth Campbell
Newham NE Womens
Section

Dear Comrades,

Kathleen Jones' letter (*Militant* 821) claims that 'positive discrimination' is necessary. Working class women are disadvantaged and face problems of getting involved in the Labour and trade union movement. Many women have domestic responsibilities and little spare time.

Men and women will only become active in the movement if they feel it has something concrete to offer them. Demanding guaranteed positions

Dear Comrades,

October 26th's *Sunday Express*, had an article about the booming trade of Dublin's pawnbrokers, especially from the middle classes.

The volume of trade is so great that it sustains a weekly auction of over 200 articles, despite only a tiny percentage actually reaching auction. A capitalist Ireland is obviously of no benefit for the Southern middle class—what possible attraction can it hold for the Northern working class?

Yours Fraternally
Dave Gorton.
London

for women on committees is a token gesture which would fail to alter the position of the majority of women.

The real problem is of getting ordinary women involved in their local unions and party, this can only be done by, for example, providing childcare facilities and holding union meetings during work time.

While the Labour Party refuses to make any promises of better conditions, working class men and women will remain sceptical of politics and politicians.

Yours fraternally
Anne Lewin
Newham NE Labour
Party Young Socialists

Dead End

Dear Comrades,

Children of the Dead End by Patrick McGill first published in 1914 is an autobiographical novel. It gives a graphic account of the brutal conditions endured by workers at the turn of the century, written by one of those workers.

A young man, born in Donegal, of a large, impoverished family, is forced to seek work at the age of ten in order to support his twelve brothers and sisters.

He begins his working life on the local farms of Donegal. At the age of fourteen he comes over to Scotland to work as a potato picker, then as a navy on the railway and later on a waterworks project in Kinlochleven.

The book provides a photograph of the life of the working class in Britain and Ireland at the turn of the century, and indicates the latent talent that exists in it, for McGill's education like most of his generation was almost non-existent.

Yours fraternally
An Edinburgh reader

Wirral the buses?

Dear Comrades,

Deregulation came to the Wirral on 26 October, with no timetables even printed, never mind issued, and with bus drivers asking the passengers which bus stop they thought they should be using.

A spokesman for the Merseyside Passenger Transport Executive said that the public should work out the timetables for themselves by turning up at the bus stop and then seeing what time the bus arrived. Some buses are now only running once per hour and at irregular intervals.

Also, in response to criticism that the 'hotline' which had been set up to answer all inquiries was permanently engaged, the spokesman pronounced that this was the public's own fault! I suppose they will ask everyone to stop ringing the number so that callers can get through!

Yours fraternally
Dave Clark
Birkenhead

Nissan strike hushed up

NISSAN (formerly Datsun) earlier this year became the first Japanese car manufacturer to set up a base in Great Britain. Their plant on the old Sunderland airport site at Washington was recently officially opened by Mrs Thatcher, writes Bob Stothard.

Nissan's plant is an assembly operation from kits shipped over from Japan. Manufacturing 'may' occur in phase 2 when the present operation expands from 500 to 5,000 jobs.

Tories, local and national, in concert with development agencies have hailed this 'first' as a triumph for Thatcherite policies. "That the Japanese have chosen to invest in Britain shows they have faith in us" cackled the Premier who is obliged to don tin knickers when visiting working class areas. But have Nissan 'invested' in Britain?

It is estimated that the company has received from various local and national agencies £100 million by way of 'help' and 'inducements', in short, bribes. Sadly the 'extras' included astonishing help from the trade unions.

New Realism

The AEU 'won' sole negotiating rights — a single union agreement— displacing the TGWU (the largest union representing motor trade workers) and, more surprisingly, the GMBATU which is the largest in the North-East. The AEU package on offer included a 'no-strike agreement' and no pre-entry closed shop. This is 'New Realism' at the sharp end.

It is reported that local and national AEU officials together with Labour members of local bodies and officials of various agencies extolled the virtues of North-

East workers as 'compliant, flexible and dependable'.

De-coded this means 'job-hungry, unorganized, and will do as they're told'.

The company will have gleefully noted that this also meant no demarcation, no easily available means of comparison with other arms of the motor industry concentrated in the Midlands and South and lower rates of pay. In tune with Japanese industrial tradition workers are actively discouraged from joining the AEU but exhorted to join the 'company union' instead. As a result my sources tell me that the AEU has only 65 or so members. Nissan might as well boast that they have a union-free plant.

Conditions may be worse than in other car factories. Line speed-ups, the inability of workers to communicate with each other because of the distance between 'stations' and the need

to obtain permission to visit the lavatory (with management timing the absence with a stop-watch) is the order of the day at Nissan.



Yet I am reliably informed, despite the ballyhoo concerning the 'dependability and compliance' of the workforce, labour turnover on the production line is extremely high as workers leave frustrated through being unable to penetrate the 'family' defensiveness of the company to properly air grievances or finding union officials unwilling to 'rock the boat'. Despite all this Nissan have suffered their first strike, ironically by supervisors before production started! They were actually locked inside by management for six hours

before a high-ranking official settled the issue which remains unknown.

Yet no word of this has reached the outside until now. It is thought management and union colluded in keeping the issue secret from the public to maintain the 'cosy' image they with others have built up.

Honda are shortly to open a plant at Swindon, Wiltshire. It is likely that they will draw heavily on their own experience at Columbus, Ohio as well as Nissan at Sunderland. These experiences can be summarised:—

Build the plant away from traditional motor manufacturing areas; Recruit workers who are *in work already* preferably from small companies where union membership is nil or union activity negligible; Recruit young people whose knowledge of industrial organization and action is limited; Ensure that

recruits are scattered around the locality thereby minimizing after-work socializing; Recruit the unemployed only as a last resort.

It is remiss, to say the very least, of the trade union movement to allow companies, not just Nissan, to ride roughshod over custom and practice. American trade unions, particularly the auto workers (UAW) have long experience of trying to deal with Japanese manufacturers in the US, particularly at Nissan's Tennessee plant. Why were no lessons learned from that?

In spite of the forces ranged against them, workers are still liable to take action in defence of their interests. It is impossible for them not to. An American capitalist remarked at the turn of the century as he dealt with a wage claim backed up by threat to strike, "these damn immigrants learn too quickly".

Labour on Tories coat tails

ONE OF the major controversies in the trade unions surrounding Labour's rightward policy shifts is the the next Labour Government should repeal legislation compelling workers to take secret ballots before a strike can be legal. Neil Kinnock wishes to exempt this legislation from Tory laws he intends to repeal.

It is vital that the arguments on the next Labour government repealing this law and not giving in to the media are hammered

out. The Tories have sought to make political capital out of their anti-union laws in arguing they have "given the unions back to the members". Indeed, their policies: compulsory secret ballots before industrial action, secret ballots to legally validate the closed shop and political funds, and secret ballots to elect national union officials, appear to increase union democracy. However, no Government in recent history has attacked

workers rights more than this one.

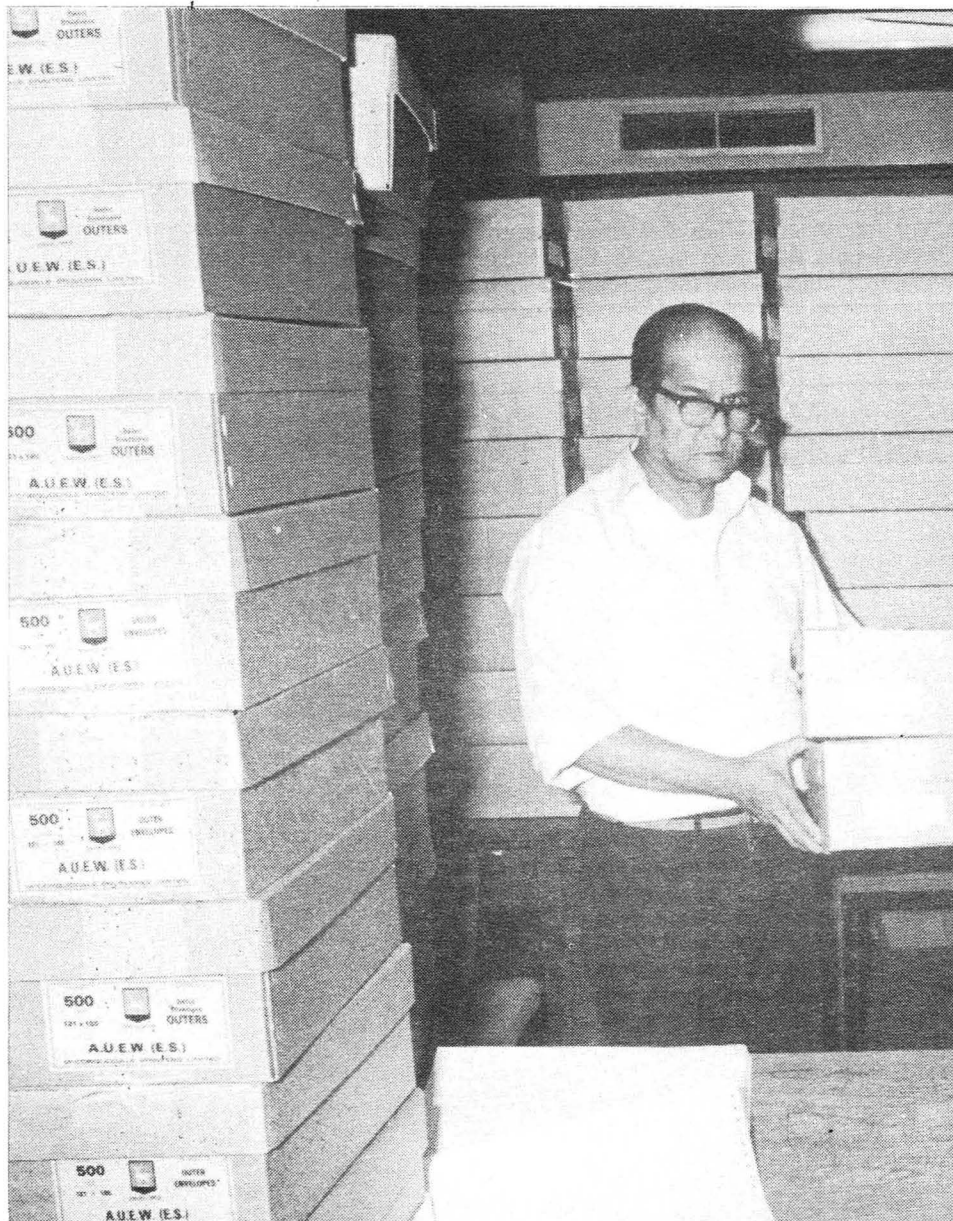
- They have:
- ★ removed legal immunity from workers using the only power they have, industrial action.
 - ★ spent billions of pounds on bulldozing through pit closures against the will of the majority of miners, using unprecedented "police-state" tactics.
 - ★ created an environment in which firms feel they can dismiss workers for taking strike action.
 - ★ put millions more on the dole, reducing the security and piece of mind of all workers.
 - ★ encouraged a dictatorial style of management, which confronts their workforce before involving them in decisions.
 - ★ sought to remove a whole range of legal protection.

Their policies have increased the power of the 21,000 millionaires who dominate industry, finance and commerce, not democratically, but through open dictatorship.

Rather than emphasising these points, the Labour leadership have taken the view that most voters oppose union power more than the policies of Thatcher, forgetting the massive growth in support for Labour among trade unionists in polls by the end of the miner's strike. Rather than exposing the Tories, they give credence to Tory attacks on union rights.

The policy of refusing to repeal compulsory strike ballots could be disastrous. If a group of workers vote to take action by a show of hands, as is probable, will Neil Kinnock allow those workers and their union to be dragged through the courts, thus alienating many Labour voting trade unionists, and splitting the Labour and trade union movement wide open? Or will they turn a blind eye to breaches of this legislation, thus inviting attacks for inconsistency?

Labour must repeal all Tory anti-union laws, but make clear that it is Labour who represent genuine union



'Yes' votes pile up in the AEU's political fund ballot.

Photo: Jex Coulson (IFL).

democracy by campaigning on the following demands:—

- ★ No state or management interference in independent unions.
- ★ Repeal of union laws that would have made action taken by Solidarity in Poland illegal in Britain.
- ★ Encourage all affiliated unions to elect all officials, to pay all officials the same as the workers they represent, and to consult members fully on all major issues through district, branch or shop steward's structures.
- ★ Compulsion on firms to give union election can-

didates access to speak in works time to union members to increase dual membership involvement, with workplace ballots. This could be extended to meetings in works time prior to and after union conferences. "Democratic" management won't agree voluntarily.

- ★ Modify section 62 of the 1978 (Labour Government) Employment Protection (consolidation) Act, under which it is perfectly legal for atrocities like the sacking of Silentnight or Wapp-

ing strikers for taking industrial action, providing all strikers are sacked. Even Kenya, where Silentnight have a factory, have laws to force reinstatement of workers sacked for striking. If these demands are shouted from the roof tops along with other socialist policies, there will be no confusion about who really defend workers' democracy.

By Jason Hunter
(AEU shop steward,
Blackburn)

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.

○ **Militant Calendar 1987.** Get your Xmas presents in early with our Militant Calendar commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Russian Revolution. Cost only £1! Bulk orders available from the Albert Hall rally. Orders of 10 or more half price. Raise money towards your area's fighting fund target!

○ **1" Badge Militant '86.** Limited edition of 1,000 available at Albert Hall rally, price 30p.

○ **Sharing the House with Mother.** Static Nation Tour. November: Tue 18—Nottingham Mardi Gras. Wed 19—London Dingwalls. Thur 20—Wolverhampton Woodhayes. Fri 21—Hull Unity Club. Sat 22—Lincoln Cornhill Vaults.

Militant Meetings

□ **All Yorkshire Militant Womens Day School.** Workshops on famine, sexual harassment, women and childbirth, women in trade unions, equal pay and more. Sheffield, Saturday 29 November. 12 until 6pm. Midday and evening meals provided, crèche organised. Social in the evening. Further details contact: Marion Adkins, Sheffield (0742) 330855.

□ **West Midlands Militant Day School on Women.** Discussions on 'Violence Against Women' and 'A Charter for Working Women'. Digbeth Civic Hall, Birmingham. Saturday 29 November. 10am until 5pm. Crèche organised, lunch available. Social in the evening. All welcome. Please contact Sue Wilkie (0782) 823541 for further details.

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

○ **New Posters** specially produced for the Albert Hall Rally. Set of four portraits of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky. Bulk orders available. Cost 80p each—set of four £2.50. Also portrait poster of Rosa Luxemburg 80p.

○ **Lenin and Trotsky** on Rosa Luxemburg (40p inc. postage). Luxemburg Reform or Revolution (£3 inc. postage). Order from World Socialist Books, 3/13 Hepscoth Rd, London E9 5HB.

○ **Wanted—Co-op Stamps.** Loose or in books. All proceeds to FF. Send c/o Circulation dept, 3/13 Hepscoth Rd, London E9 5HB.

○ **L'Avance Socialiste**, the French Marxist paper for youth, socialist and communist workers. Order now from: L'Avance Socialiste, BP no. 705, 75531 Paris CEDEX 11, France. £10 for 12 issues.

Women in struggle

Bar staff win their jobs back

THE BAR staff at the British Legion Club in Merseyside have won their jobs back after six months on strike.

Militant supporters spoke to two of the strikers, who looked back over the struggles that took place during the strike and what lessons they learnt.

The bar staff originally went on strike after the full-time assistant steward was sacked due to "financial cut-backs". He was told that his part time staff could do the work cheaper.

Seven of the staff walked out, after only being members of the T&GWU for a matter of weeks. Initially the strikers had little idea of what to do, and they do not know what they would have done, without the assistance of the unemployed T&GWU members.

The strikers obtained tremendous support from the local community, with most of the regular customers at the club staying away. The Wilsons draymen also supported the strike, refusing to cross picket lines.

However, some club committee members used every possible method of harassment to break the strike.

On one occasion when a club member attempted to bring beer into the club, the two pickets on duty collected friends, neighbours and children to form a human chain to prevent the beer being taken into the club.

This picket, which included OAPs and children was subjected to verbal and physical abuse. The police were called and the committee member was told to clear off with his beer.

This kind of support from the police however did not last, particularly when the club organised charity events in an attempt to break the strike.

The strikers appealed to the organisers of these charity nights to use an alternative venue, which the strikers arranged for them and offered every assistance.

However when the chari-

ty nights continued the strikers organised mass pickets. This resulted in the union being taken to court for secondary picketing and the pickets faced harassment from the police.

Their hut was burnt out twice. The first time was when they had left the hut overnight in the back of one of the shops.

The strikers were really upset that the shopkeeper's business and the people above the shop could have been killed. The second time, petrol was thrown over the hut and it was completely burnt out.

Those on strike were mainly women with young families, who had to have their children on the picket line with them, for a lot of the time.

They faced verbal abuse, threats of physical violence and rumours spread about them as individuals, and yet bravely they continued picketing for six months from early morning to late at night, often with little help on the picket lines.

Throughout the strike the management committee would not allow the strikers to address the members of the club, and so were never allowed to explain their case.

Eventually the management committee was overturned by the members and the bar staff still on strike were reinstated.

Return to work, is not the end of the battle, but the beginning. They are being forced to do more work than before, they are not allowed any drink on the club premises and are being continually watched. However they have learnt their strength by being in the union and will fight on.

One of the lessons the unions need to draw from strikes like these is that many of the strikes occurring at the moment are women in small isolated workplaces.

They should not be left alone to fight. Resources must be provided in the way of waterproofs, huts etc., plus help with picketing.



Murton Lodge banner on march during miners' strike.

Breakthrough for women in miners' union

HISTORY WAS made last week when NUM members in Murton Lodge in the Durham Area elected a woman, Pat Currie, to the Lodge Committee.

Pat had been actively involved in the 84-85 strike and has remained active in the union since, winning the respect of members across all trades.

There has been a radical change of attitude among

miners towards women's activity in the Labour movement, and there is no question of Pat, who works in the Colliery canteen being seen as a 'token woman' on the Lodge committee.

She was elected at the general meeting, has the full confidence of all members and will represent the interests of all members in the pit.

Pat has recently been particularly involved in the struggle against the Coal

Board to achieve equality with male employees with regard to pay and concessionary coal provision.

She told Glen Heron of Hetton LPYS: "The women in the canteen have been turned down for equal rights, so we felt we must have a representative on the Lodge Committee. It could never have happened before the strike, but now women have become aware of the union, politics and the power of the union."

"During the strike, the women were right behind the men, supporting them. Now we're standing shoulder to shoulder. More and more women are taking part all over the country. There will be a lot more on Committees in the future."

By Charlie Bell

(Lodge Committee member, Murton NUM, personal capacity)

University victimised cleaner

LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY management's message to their women cleaners is "If you get pregnant don't expect your job back."

Jeanette Herrity is a NUPE steward at the university who has been told that she cannot have her job back after she leaves to have a baby next year—despite the fact that she has worked there for two years.

"I have been with the university two years and I was elected a steward 13 months ago. Before then the branch had been virtually non-existent so far as the cleaners were concerned. From day one management disapproved of me as a steward. I have been moved from my place of work and refused all union facility time.

"Five months ago there were rumours that privatisation was being introduced. These rumours were denied by management, but they were not prepared to

deny it in writing. One month later a woman came to work at ten past seven and was refused admission. When I asked the supervisor why she claimed there had always been a 7 o'clock lock-out.

"Within that week three women were turned away with no pay. When management were approached they agreed they should have given notice of these plans but the women still lost their pay.

No buses

"Since then sheds full of women have been turned away. We are supposed to start at 6.30am. Many women have had to take sick leave to work out routes on the buses.

"In the neighbouring Royal Hospital, management are prepared to be flexible over starting times but our management are refusing to budge. We are determin-

ed to fight this. I believe I have been victimised because I'm the steward for the cleaners.

"I will be leaving work next year to have a baby. When I went to personnel they said I had only been there two years and therefore was not entitled to maternity payment or a return to work after maternity leave.

"This is the first time these Tory laws have been used in the university. This is an attack on all women who have been recently employed. I think this is an attempt to soften up the workforce before introducing privatisation.

"The union branch in the past had not done much, but at the recent branch AGM, new officers were elected who are more prepared to fight for ordinary workers' rights."

By Mick Whale

Salford health workers battle

NOVEMBER 5 saw fireworks at the monthly meeting of the Salford District Health Authority when 250 health service workers from Prestwich, Ladywell, Hope Hospital and the local children's hospital staged a half day's strike to attend a lobby of the authority to bring home the opposition to the cuts in services, and the closures and privatisation.

The proposed closure of the nursery at Prestwich hospital was seen as the first step to shutting the whole hospital, turning out 1,000 mentally-ill patients and a similar number of staff.

According to the authority the closure of the nursery (June 1987) was due to a lack in subsidy, however when management needed women workers it was quite happy to subsidise the nursery.

Now with 4 million on the dole and vicious cuts in the health service, those same women are no longer required by the management. Young women and single parents, who rely on the nursery to carry on working, are the ones facing the sharp end of the run down of the hospital.

Shift workers

The authority did pass round a list of private child minders, however I don't think they realised in their rush to appease everyone that a list of private child minders is totally useless to shift workers who start work at seven in the morning.

Workers had already been united by a joint trade union mass meeting (notably Nupe and Cohse). This was the first meeting of this nature in

6 years. Such was the pressure from the rank and file activists for united action particularly around the following demands:

- ★ Protect patient services.
- ★ Stop the sale of Prestwich hospital.
- ★ Safeguard the conditions and jobs of staff.
- ★ Stop the run down of the hospital.
- ★ Oppose the closure of the nursery.

After the lobby had begun attempts were made to lock the doors to the District Health authorities offices, so the 250 strong lobby went up to the fifth floor meeting to hear what the pin-striped butchers had planned for the future of the health service in the area.

Under the pressure of numbers and the high feelings involved the authority backed down over the

closure of the nursery taking the item off the agenda, and setting up a three man review panel. They were also forced to re-open the waiting list that had previously been suspended.

Only beginning

One small victory was gained but this is only the beginning of the campaign. There is still a generally very poor state of resources for the health service, and this is going to be a very long battle against privatisation, the running down of hospitals, the Tory cuts and the wider issues of community care for the mentally ill.

By Dave Curtis

(Nupe steward, Prestwich Hospital)



Defend CPSA democracy

CPSA BROAD Left conference met in Manchester over the weekend of 8/9 November against the background of the NEC's disgraceful decision to re-run the election for general secretary and general treasurer.

In marked contrast to the so-called 'Broad Left '84' conference held the previous weekend, which only attracted 75 people, over 300 socialists gathered to plan the way forward for CPSA at this crucial stage.

Conference opened with the debate on pay and unanimously agreed a claim and strategy for the 1987 pay round which was put by northern supporters. It then went on to agree the need to do more organisationally to involve women members in the union and the Broad Left and once again quite correctly reject calls for reserved seats for women on the Broad Left slate.

**By Frank Bonner.
(CAA section executive,
personal capacity)**

The argument of *Militant* supporters that this was merely an organisational manoeuvre which glossed over the real problems that women face in becoming involved and therefore makes it less likely that these problems will be dealt with was accepted.

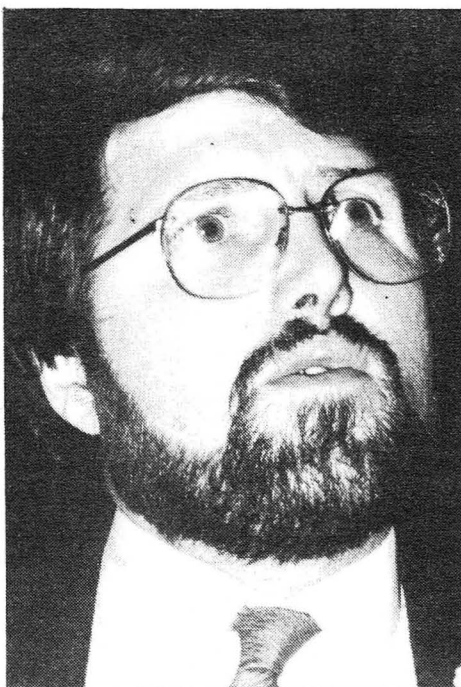
Conference welcomed John Macreadie with sustained applause. He spoke of the victory achieved by the Broad Left in seeing off Alistair Graham from the union and labour movement

in general.

He went on to deal with the anti-democratic nature of the current NEC and the need to elect senior officers and an NEC who are committed to defending the democratic structure of the union and defending and advancing the interests of members.

Conference went on to discuss the general secretary campaign and supported the motion from *Militant* supporters which congratulated the Broad Left on its campaign and defended the decision to use all weapons at our disposal, including the courts to defend the union's democracy.

In keeping with its internationalist traditions conference also discussed South Africa and Ireland. On Ireland previous Broad Left policy was overturned and affirmed its belief that the only solution for Ireland is socialism and the only agency capable of achieving that is the



Eddie Spence



John Macreadie

united working class.

The mood is there amongst CPSA members to re-elect John Macreadie with an increased majority. It requires the activists to put in the work needed to overcome the right wing's biased election regulations. On the basis of the conference there is no doubt that this work will be done.

Broad Left splitters play right wing's game

CPSA MEMBERS and workers generally will be absolutely disgusted at the decision of the so-called Broad Left '84 Group leadership to stand their defeated candidate Geoff Lewtas in the re-run of the general secretary election.

In the first election Geoff Lewtas came a poor third behind John Macreadie and the right wing candidate Ellis.

Lewtas and the BL '84 grouping claim to be socialist and left wingers have refused to recognise what workers know. That in this election the fight is between John Macreadie, the General Secretary-elect, who was elected fairly and squarely and will fight to implement conference policies, and John Ellis, the

preferred candidate of Thatcher, the Tories, the millionaire press barons and the right-wing.

In what is likely to be the most polarised and filthy election in the history of the union, every socialist will be supporting John Macreadie.

The decision therefore of BL 84 to stand Lewtas, shows that they are prepared to put self-interest and sectarianism before the interests of CPSA members, and defeating the common enemy, the right wing. Contrast this with the principled socialist stand of Eddie Spence. He was the Broad Left candidate for general treasurer. He narrowly lost the election by 700 votes approximately to Chris

Kirk, the BL 84 candidate.

Eddie Spence has stood down from the re-run to show his acceptance that the first election was fair and democratic and to ensure that the left vote in the union is not split, increasing the chances of a right wing victory.

No matter what the BL 84 leadership at the top say, CPSA rank and file members will vote to defend the democracy of their union and re-elect the candidates who won the first time, John Macreadie and Chris Kirk.

**By Kevin Roddy
(Chair CPSA Broad Left)**



EDDIE SPENCE was the Broad Left candidate for CPSA national treasurer. He has stood down in the re-run election in the interests of left unity. Here he talks to Richard Knights.

West Midlands bus

WEST MIDLAND Passenger Transport Executive bus drivers won a two week battle last Saturday.

Management were proposing that drivers should sit for 5½ hours behind the wheel without a break.

Although the law says that the limit should be 4½ hours. They got round this by adding up the 2-3 minutes when the bus stops to pick up passengers and allocating this period as a break!

The mood on the picket

line was one of confidence and determination. On Monday the drivers voted 5 to 1 to stick it out. Many were prepared to stay out until Christmas.

But on Sunday the buses were back on the road, the drivers with a victory in their pockets, the management with their tails between their legs.

**By Andy Ferline
(Coventry South East
LPYS)**

Scarsdale hospital

NUPE MEMBERS who were involved in the six-month strike over private cleaning contractors at Scarsdale Hospital in Chesterfield are on the march again.

They have just won a belated victory with the contractors, ICC, being forced out. Now they want to see the back of local businessman Robert Robinson, the Heath Authority chairman on whose casting vote ICC won the contract.

Like all the Tories and their big business backers, they don't need the NHS when they can afford private treatment. But they don't mind making money out of it.

Strike leaders and Labour members of the Health Authority are planning a victory rally and social, to which they are inviting the workers from Barking and Addenbrookes who fought the same fight against privatisation.

Notts bus deregulation lets loose the cowboys

AFTER THE first week of deregulation on the buses the Tory cry that competition and privatisation will improve the service has predictably been revealed as a fraud.

Already in Nottinghamshire one large private operator has been warned by Notts County Council for failing to keep to the time table, state/standard of buses, and two of their drivers were caught giving incorrect tickets.

Arising from the tensions at the beginning of the week, one private operator rang up our company to complain that our drivers were being unfriendly to his drivers.

One of our drivers wrote the following poem to sum up our feelings about private operators and deregulation.

**By Kev Cocker
(Branch secretary
Mansfield NUR No.2,
personal capacity)**

Hello, hello is that East Mid?
I'll tell you what a driver did.
He shook his fist and gave the V
He gave abuse. Now do you see?

I gave my eyes a gentle dab
He called me names: he said 'a scab'
I'm trying hard to be so brave
Next time tell him just to wave

Machine on knee and tin on floor
Keep getting up to close the door
I'm racing buses down the road
They're nearly full, but where's my load?

No smiling now, I've got a frown
Three times today I've broken down
I'm going now, I'll say goodbye
This bloody job just makes me cry

Maggie's up to all her tricks
The busses too are in a fix
Too many busses too few folk
Deregulation's just a joke

She's selling of our gas and phones
The Cabinet's a bunch of clones
All quite crazy quite insane
Going quickly down the drain

So come on Britain, don't just moan
Get the bitch down off her throne

**By Graham Gallagher
(alias Roadrunner,
(Mansfield NUR No 2)**

(Schools: continued from front page)

council workers, if they feel they cannot afford them! Either way it is normal trade union collective bargaining procedures that are in danger.

The scrapping of Burnham also facilitates the introduction of Baker's plan for different rates of pay for teachers doing the same job, depending on subject or the headteacher's personal view

of who is the most able.

If the Tories do get away with killing off Burnham and thereby seriously undermining the teaching unions, the way will be clear for further assaults on the state education system. The Tories have already announced their plan for City Technology Colleges, a backdoor revival of selective grammar schools.

The teachers must refuse to accept any Baker decree. In the event of imposition, as

a first step they should link up with the Scottish teachers' union, the EIS, which is planning a one day strike for the first week of December in opposition to the Main salaries' deal in Scotland.

The teaching unions must stand firm against any whitening away of conditions or wages, whether imposed or negotiated. But ordinary teachers must still be prepared to fight against any further concessions from

union policy by their leaders, under the threat of Baker's intervention.

The teaching unions should approach the TUC and other public sector unions, to combat any imposed settlement.

The NUT special salaries conference on 29 November, could be used as a starting point for a campaign of escalating industrial action, in defence of teachers' pay and of collective bargaining rights.

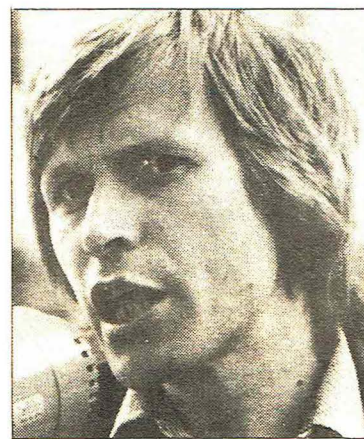
Militant

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Courts rob printers



Peter Jarvis

A £15,000 fine for calling a chapel meeting has been imposed on two trade unionists. Tom Harrison and Billy Wells, employed by Labour Party member Robert Maxwell on his *Daily Mirror*. They were hauled in front of Justice Mars Jones because as chapel officers they called a meeting which resulted in lost copies.

Their real crime was to fight for trade unionism and jobs. The 'socialist' Mr Maxwell has plans for launching a 24 hour London daily—*London Daily News*. Maxwell applied to the court and won an injunction outlawing disruptive meetings, although he did later try to withdraw the action.

These savage penalties are an attack on the democratic rights of all working people. For the NGA it is yet another blow. It appears that the judges are involved in a conspiracy to inflict the maximum damage on the union's ability to fight the bosses' deunionisation assaults.

Sequestration

This fine is a direct result of the NGA's failure to fight effectively the sequestration and the massive contempt fines of £625,000 at the time of the battle against Shah at Warrington.

The *Militant* criticised the NGA National Council when they abandoned the 24 hour strike, after the TUC General Council had refused its backing. The weakness

By Peter Jarvis
(London Region NGA)

shown then has allowed open season on the NGA. For Murdoch, during the Wapping dispute, has also used the courts against the union. SOGAT has been virtually bankrupted by such legal action and is now balloting members for a levy to keep it afloat.

The response to this present attack has been mild. Nothing is heard from the TUC. For them, it seems, such sentences are every day occurrences.

However, Norman Willis has again commented on the *News International* dispute. Part of his advice to the print union executives is that they might have to override the wishes of the members concerned, for the greater good of their unions as a whole. Yet anything less than victory at Wapping will have a damaging effect on trade unionism throughout the print industry.

Coming at a time when Murdoch is trying to entice strikers to individual-



Women strikers in the thick of the Wapping dispute.

ly accept the offer, which was overwhelmingly rejected in the latest ballots, this will only help undermine union solidarity.

Advice to Willis

Willis believes all that can be hoped for is some jobs in Wapping and priority for sacked workers in future recruitment. But the advice from the strikers is clear: 'either help us to win this dispute or keep out of it!'

Yet according to Willis to get support for even these small 'concessions', the continued demand for action to be taken against Hammond

and the EETPU for their anti-trade union activity during the dispute, must cease. Yet a recently published book confirms their complicity in recruiting scab labour for the Wapping operation.

The battle against Murdoch and the fine against the *Mirror* union officials are part of one war. To halt these attacks it is necessary to involve the print unions as a whole.

The London NGA at its conference last weekend called upon the National Council to mount a new campaign to stop all services to the *News International* titles and

"endeavour to have all magazines printed by or for *News International* blacked."

To achieve this, ten months into the dispute, will not be simple. All those involved need to be brought together, and any action agreed must be simultaneous, so no workers taking solidarity action feel they are on their own. But the key to such action is Fleet Street.

To many in the industry this is seen as our strongest section and therefore should lead the attack, giving confidence to other print workers.

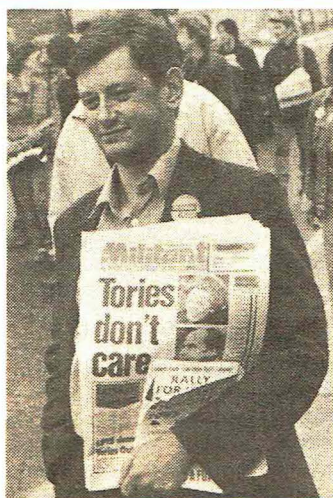
What we stand for

- 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.
- Workers' management of the nationalised industries. These should be run on the basis of one-third of the places on the management board coming from the unions in the industry, one-third from the TUC representing the working class as a whole, and one-third from the government.
- Opposition to the 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.
- 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.

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