

Militant

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Rally '86 a huge success

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

140,000

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70,000

60,000

50,000

40,000

30,000

20,000

10,000



THE BIGGEST and best-ever *Militant* Rally last Sunday sent home 5000 supporters bouncing with excitement, optimism and confidence in the future of socialist ideas.

The jam-packed Albert Hall audience came to London in hundreds of buses from all parts of the country to be treated to a marvellous display of videos, lighting effects, music, cabaret, and of course, speeches. This superbly organised event was a crushing reply to all those diagnosing the "death" of *Militant*.

From beginning to end the Rally buzzed with excitement. It opened with a laser show, creating patterns of light in the air to the beat of rock music, forming the words *Militant Rally '86* above the stage, and completely transfixing the audience before they exploded into clapping and cheering.

Every one of the speeches from the platform, including workers in struggle in South Africa, in the Print, in CPSA and, particularly, Liverpool, was cheered to the echo by the thousands present.

To cap off a tremendous day came the announcement, to general acclamation, that the collection had raised over £33,000. Thousands of socialists had travelled thousands of miles, but they went away more refreshed than they came, with the knowledge that *Militant* was bloodied but unbowed in the last year and as determined as ever to stamp the authority of Marxist ideas on the labour movement.

British officers

plot state sponsored terror

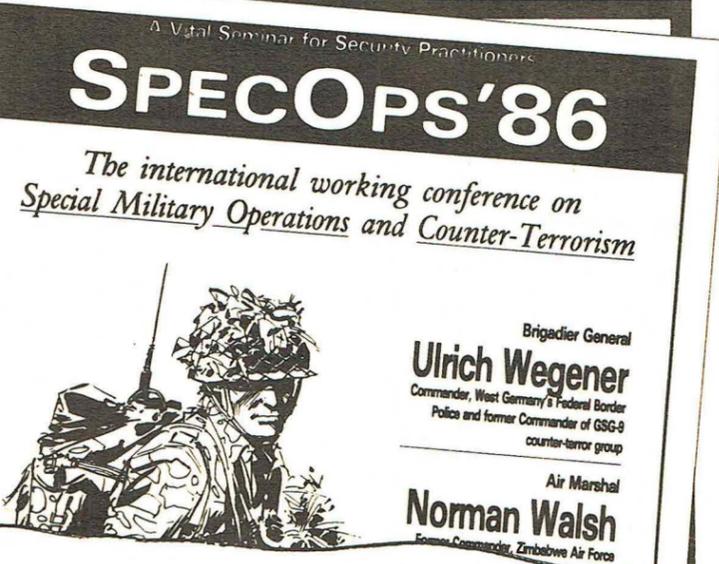
HIGH RANKING British Army officers were invited to speak at an international conference of 'counter terror' organised by a Washington based group with CIA links which calls for increased military action in Nicaragua.

By a Militant reporter

The conference, organised by the Defence and Foreign Affairs group in London on 3-4 November was also attended by US military officers and experts in special military operations.

The Tory government's hypocritical opposition to "terrorism" has been blown apart by these revelations.

While Thatcher, Howe and Reagan denounce terrorism this conference discussed



terrorist operations against the governments of Nicaragua, Mozambique, and Angola, among others.

According to the conference agenda Lieutenant Colonel Jake Hensman of the Royal Marines and Lieutenant Colonel David Parker of the Parachute Regiment were invited to speak. Both are listed as serving officers in the 1985 Army list.

Parker is Commanding Officer of 2 Para according to the regiment's Aldershot headquarters. The regiment says however, that Parker did not attend the conference. But they admit that Second in Command of 2 Para did attend.

Afterwards a spokesman for 2 Para said: "I'm afraid we can't talk at all about this conference".

'Counter-terror' training

Also invited were a former SAS officer, David Walker, the commander of the West German Federal Border Police, the deputy assistant secretary of the US Air Force and various experts on 'special unit training', 'Terrorism and sub-national conflict' and 'counter terror and low intensity conflict'.

The conference discussed the "lessons learned" of "recent US special operations" and on "Indo-China, Grenada, the Falklands, Central America, Northern Ireland, Southern Africa and Afghanistan."

The weekly journal of the Defense and Foreign Affairs group says in an article on contra leader Adolfo Calero: "There is little doubt that with the recent passage of \$100 million in US aid to the contra movement, the possibilities for increased military activity within Nicaragua should be significantly enhanced."

(Continued on page 10).

AS WELL as the magnificent collection at the rally, donations from supporters in Wales have helped send the cashometer shooting upwards.

Mike John, unemployed, from Newport sent in two weeks' dole money-£60.

Bridget Jones from Cardiff, also unemployed sent in £30.

Peter O'Brian and Rob Owen both CPSA members from Llanelli donated £250.

**Militant
Exclusive**

Two die as loyalists go on rampage

TWO PEOPLE died and 70 were injured in a weekend of violence in Northern Ireland, as an estimated quarter of a million Protestants took part in an anti-Anglo-Irish agreement demonstration outside Belfast City Hall. 150 shops were attacked and damaged, many of them looted. The streets of the city centre became a battle ground between the police and rioters.

The rally began with the Ulster Defence Association (UDA), masked and uniformed, on the platform for at least 20 minutes. The mood was much harder than on last year's demonstration when there was no violence. One placard gave a chilling warning "Eire beware" beside a drawing of a bomb.

The unionist leaders outlined the next phase of their campaign. It includes all unionist councillors

resigning from government bodies—such as education and health boards, a "more effective" rates campaign and a petition for the queen. But these measures will not go far enough for the hard line loyalists.

Catholics bore the brunt of the weekend's sectarian violence. After Friday night's rally in Carrickfergus, Alice Kelly, a 66 year old woman died from what may have been a heart attack, after an attack on her home as she and her husband Hugh, aged 70, were going to bed. While he phoned the police, she fell on the floor and died about an hour later.

After that rally, loyalist gangs roamed the town attacking Catholic homes and property. In the early hours of Sunday morning the Catholic New Lodge area of Belfast also came under attack. About 20 men in paramilitary uniform attacked homes with

bricks and breeze blocks. Local people said a gunman fired five shots, one of which went into the bedroom where a young girl was sleeping.

Catholic schools were petrol-bombed in Sion Mills and Castleberg. Catholic homes in Omagh, Lisburn and Coleraine were attacked. There were also several attacks on the police. The Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) opened fire on them in the Shankill area and a bomb attack was attempted on an RUC barracks in the city centre.

The Ulster Resistance, set up last week, is still mobilising. On Monday night 2,000 loyalists marched in line, led by a uniformed colour party. Many UDA and UVF members are joining this force to push it to take more militant action.

This paramilitary group is now drilling and training, and over the

past week has marched in many towns and villages. The Unionist leadership are letting the initiative slip. It will fall into the hands of the paramilitaries in the next few months, which may see the UVF and the Ulster Freedom Fighters (UFF) re-emerging with a vengeance. It has been reported that the UFF have already made preparations for a bombing campaign in Dublin and Cork.

There is also likely to be a re-emergence of the sectarian killers, particularly in Belfast. Sectarian polarisation has now reached as high a level as ever in the history of the Northern Ireland state.

The Labour and trade union movement has a responsibility to intervene with clear ideas to cut across this situation. A socialist alternative to the Anglo-Irish Agreement, the provision of workers' defence and a campaign to build a mass socialist Labour

Party are issues which must immediately be taken up by the trade union leaders. Time is not unlimited. If the threat of sectarian reaction is not confronted by the trade unions, then sectarianism will confront and ultimately engulf the trade union movement.

Last Friday 1,000 shipyard workers downed tools and demonstrated outside the city centre offices of the ICTU. In speeches, union leaders Terry Carlin and John Freeman were attacked and organisers called for an Ulster TUC. This is a warning to the entire labour and trade union movement. Unless a socialist alternative can be built, the trade unions will be split along sectarian lines and the situation could slide further towards 'Lebanisation' and civil war.

By our Belfast reporter



The burnt out house in Burges Road.

East Ham fire bomb

FIVE LOCAL Tamils have been charged after the fire-bombing in East Ham that led to three deaths last week.

Local people, however, are incensed at the actions of the police before and after the murder investigation. In the same area and even in the same street, there have been a number of previous arson attacks which are believed to have been racially motivated. Yet before this particular murder inquiry, which led to arrests and charges within four days, the police have not shown the slightest urgency in investigating other arson attacks, and they habitually play down the whole question of racist assaults.

A community meeting on Tuesday passed a resolution

expressing outrage at an arrogant and contemptuous attempt by senior police officers to take over the meeting by sitting prominently on the stage of the hall before a vote asking them to leave.

Harassment

Local Asians, and especially Tamils, have complained bitterly that the police are using the inquiries around the murder to conduct random harassment in relation to residence status, nationality and so on.

Even the Labour Newham borough council, in a hard-hitting leaflet given out to the meeting, accused the police of lying over their statements on the inquiry.

The resolution moved by local Labour Party members also called on the council to publicise the community's complete lack of confidence in the police and to campaign for policing in the area based on consultation with and control by the local community. The council is also being asked to fund a permanent advice centre in the area to assist local people subjected to regular racist attacks.

By John Pickard

NCC: Vote for socialist candidates

THE BALLOT papers for the election of three representatives of Constituency Labour Parties (CLPs) to the new National Constitutional Committee should be in the constituencies this week. There are 154 candidates. The results will be announced on 5 January.

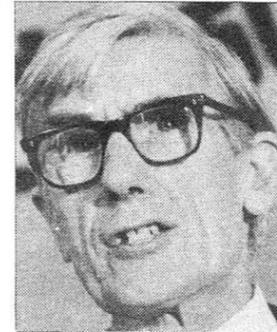
The Labour Steering Committee against the Witch-Hunt urges CLPs to support Paul Astbury and Ray Apps. They are standing for a campaigning socialist Labour Party where political disagreements are settled by open democratic debate and not organisational measures and for an end for damaging expulsions from the party.

Paul Astbury is 29, mar-



Paul Astbury.

ried with one child, a Labour Party member for eight years, now facing surcharge and disqualification after four years as a Liverpool City Councillor. He is an unemployed building worker, member of the



Ray Apps.

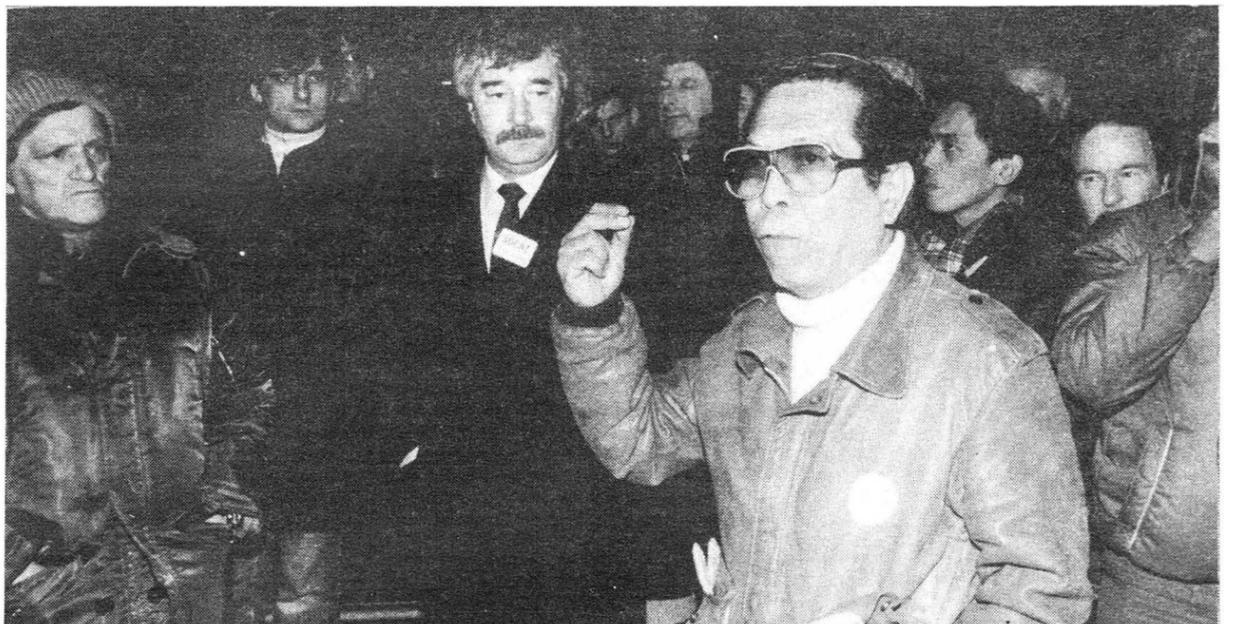
TGWU, chair of the council's Environment Services Committee, executive member of Liverpool District Labour Party and chair of Valley Ward Labour Party.

Ray Apps has been a

member of Brighton Kemp-town Labour Party since 1953. He has been constituency chair, trade union liaison officer, political education officer, election organiser, ward chair, secretary and treasurer and conference delegate for 15 years. He is a member of the TGWU, was on the working party on re-selection and co-author with Jo Richardson of the minority report which recommended mandatory re-selection of MPs.

All CLPs are urged to take part in the elections to this body to ensure that the CLP section is made up of members who represent the rank and file of the party.

Philippines union leader murdered



Roberto Ortaliz, general secretary of the Philippines trade union federation, the KMU, speaking on the picket line at Wapping.

THE SAVAGE murder of Philippines labour leader Rolando Olalia by a right-wing death squad has enraged workers and students.

His body was found horribly mutilated, his eyes gouged out and his mouth stuffed with newspaper.

Olalia was leader of the 500,000-strong radical trade union federation, the KMU, and chairman of PnB, the legal mass party of the left. Shortly before his death, amidst rumours of an impending right-wing coup, he had threatened a general strike if this happened.

In response to his murder, 6,000 workers marched to the headquarters of defence minister Enrile, who is believed to be behind the threatened coup, demanding "Enrile resign!" and "Strike, Strike!" A general strike on Monday disrupted Manila's public transport and shut down hundreds of factories across the country.

The response was not as great as had been hoped, because of the lack of a clear lead from the left leaders and workers' fears of destabilising the Aquino government and letting in an even worse regime than that of Marcos.

Large sections of workers however clearly do not believe that the Aquino government can protect their interests. Balancing precariously between the reactionary landowners and capitalists, headed by Enrile, and the pressure of the masses who brought her to power, she has been retreating before Enrile.

New People's Army

He has publicly opposed her attempts to negotiate a cease-fire with the guerrilla New People's Army, which is challenging the government in nearly every province. The murder has led to a temporary postponement of the peace talks.

The Aquino regime is politically and financially bankrupt. Its efforts to reconcile the oppressed with their exploiters in a spirit of Christian compassion will create no jobs and feed no hungry mouths.

Reaction is waiting in the wings until it judges that the masses have become sufficiently demoralised to make it safe to stage a counter-revolutionary coup.

Trade union and youth activists, with a clear programme of socialist transformation, can mobilise the enormous reserves of energy among the masses to prevent this from happening. Only by completing the revolution that has begun can Enrile and his killers be stamped out, and the present dangerous impasse ended.

By George Collins

A full analysis of the Philippines revolution is to be published shortly.

Militant International Review
 Struggle and Parliament: How will society be transformed?
 MIR No 33 Autumn 1986
 available price 90p + 20p & p from World Socialist Books, 3/13 Hepscott Road, London E9 5HB or from any Militant seller or radical bookshop.

Knowsley North by-election

A warning to Labour's right

LABOUR HELD on to win last week's election in Knowsley North. The Tories were smashed, nearly losing their deposit with just six per cent of the vote.

But Labour's majority was slashed by 11,000 from that of 1983, already one of Labour's worst years when the 'Falklands Factor' led to a huge Tory majority nationally. This kind of result nationally would reduce Labour in parliament to around 100.

The defection of Kilroy-Silk and the unprincipled manoeuvres of Labour's national executive in imposing right wing candidate George Howarth seriously eroded Labour's vote.

Many voters abstained though some turned to the Liberals' bogus radical campaign. Some even gave their vote to the insignificant and misnamed Revolutionary Communist Party who got a larger than usual fringe protest vote.

Those who did vote Labour did so overwhelmingly as an anti Tory vote. The imposition of Howarth disgusted many Labour voters. But if Howarth had concentrated his fire on the Tories, Labour's victory would have been far more decisive.

But Howarth saw constituency party activists and *Militant* as his main enemy. He was unrepentant at calling Knowsley North Labour Party members 'yobbos'. *Militant* was attacked at every possible opportunity and the local party is now threatened with closure.

The Liberal campaign centred more on local issues. More than one in four locally are out of work. Local housing, most of it council owned, is amongst the worst in Britain. The Liberal campaign was hypocritical; they called for more local jobs and greater speed in dealing with housing problems. Yet their candidate Rosemary Cooper is a Liberal coun-

By a Militant reporter

cillor on Liverpool city council. She has opposed all Labour's moves to create jobs and build houses.

The Liberals in power in Liverpool slashed council jobs and built hardly any houses. But Labour could hardly expose this record without comparing it with the marvellous achievements of Labour's *Militant* council since 1983 and Labour were fighting an 'anti *Militant* campaign.

Cooper even claimed on a TV debate that: "In Liverpool we have spent £250,000 on street lighting and burglar alarms for pensioners' homes." This was a Labour reform but Howarth kept silent. Knowsley council's appalling housing and repair record is a legacy of right wing control. Howarth used to be deputy leader and housing chairman. The campaign conned some voters into thinking Cooper was a better class fighter than Howarth!

Shunned

Labour's campaign centred on the media. Local party activists were shunned, barred from canvassing, insulted and demoralised. In some wards only one or two activists turned out.

The lack of a local campaign prevented Labour building on the anti Tory mood or cutting across the scepticism of the young, the 'what have any of them done for us' feeling or the fear that Labour's candidate would be as much a careerist as Kilroy-Silk.

The Tory media blame the drop in Labour votes on people not being sure Labour had 'got rid of its

Militants'. But the whole campaign was run by the party leadership; many letters were signed by Neil Kinnock. They used a computer to search out older voters to assure them theirs was an 'anti *Militant* campaign'. (Presumably they thought young voters were more likely to welcome a left wing campaign!) Far more than the insignificant Howarth, Neil Kinnock was on trial.

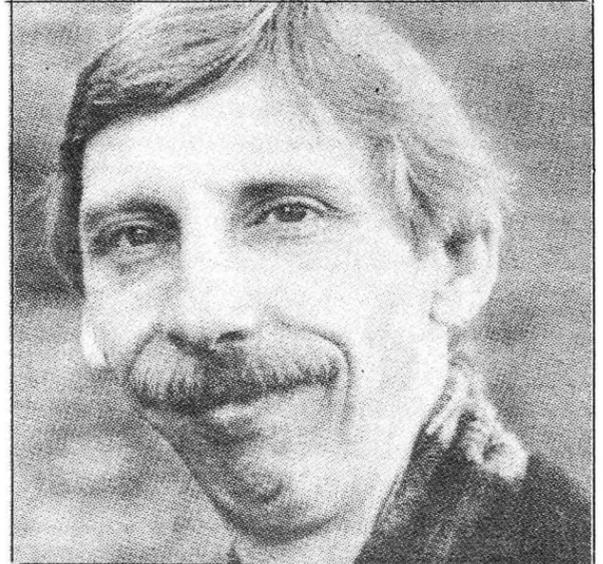
Labour's electoral strategy has never been more in question. Far from new 'moderate' policies winning floating voters, the national opinion polls show Alliance votes transferring to the Tories who are now in the lead.

The working class bedrock of Labour support is not impressed by watering down of the commitment to change. And the Labour leaders' reassuring dinners and discussions with the CBI and

the City of London have not convinced the bosses.

CBI conference backed Thatcher because the Tories are their class party. The *Economist*, reviewing Neil Kinnock's book say it "could have been written in 1963, indeed most of the arguments in it were." It comments: "The Bourbons are said to have learnt nothing, forgotten nothing. Mr Kinnock is different. He seems never to have known anything in the first place."

The bosses are contemptuous of Labour's leaders because they do not tackle the problems of 1986 from their viewpoint. The Knowsley North by-election is a warning to Neil Kinnock; many workers fear your new model party has no policies for our class either. Local Labour Party members will carry on fighting for socialist policies and a socialist candidate.



George Howarth MP

	1983 election	1986 by-election
Labour	24949 (65%)	17403 (56%)
Tory	7758 (20%)	1960 (6%)
Alliance	5715 (15%)	10679 (35%)



Decay and dereliction in Knowsley North.

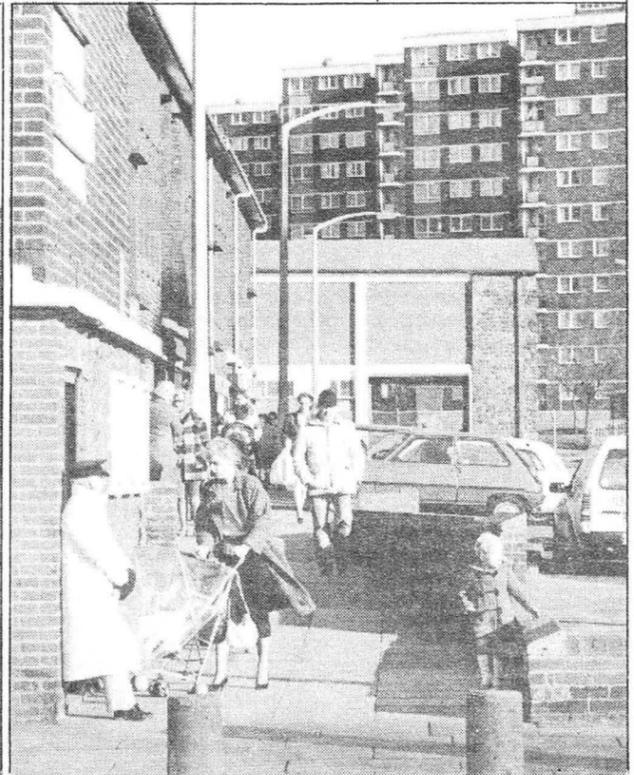


Photo Dave Sinclair

When the NEC imposed Braddock

BEFORE HOWARTH, the last time a candidate was imposed over the heads of a constituency party was in Liverpool Exchange constituency in 1955; the candidate was Bessie Braddock.

Braddock had a reputation as a class fighter during her years on Liverpool City Council and was elected to parliament in 1945. But those were the days of capitalist boom and like other left MPs she fell under the influence of the ideas of right wing reformism. Originally part of the Bevanite group, she moved to the right, starting with such issues as German rearmament. In those days of bureaucratic right wing control, many Liverpool Labour Parties were empty shells controlled by a handful of people. When Braddock was readopted as Labour candidate, only 14 people were present at the general management committee (GMC).

Her husband Jack was leader of the Labour Group on Liverpool City Council. On the trades council Jack was President and Bessie was vice-president, the Braddocks had

a stranglehold over the city's labour movement!

Within Exchange Labour Party the left began to organise around the Secretary/Agent Ken Counsell. Party membership was increased and over 60 delegates were attracted onto the GMC. The number of Labour councillors representing the constituency rose from four to twelve—which represented 100 per cent Labour seats.

"Commies and Trots"

In 1952, with dissatisfaction growing against Braddock, a resolution was passed to be considered by the four wards, that "the MP... be advised that it is the wish of this party that she should retire as our representative at the next parliamentary election and that a new candidate shall be chosen."

Abercromby supported it by 16-6, and Central by 21-8, St James supported Braddock by 30-5 and demanded an inquiry into the party. Granby ward was denied a vote by NEC officials.

Braddock launched a vicious

campaign accusing "Commies and Trots" of conspiring against her: "I will show them what's what. I don't give a tuppenny clout for any of them."

An NEC inquiry team was appointed, which made minor recommendations such as changing the GMC night to accommodate Braddock. Opposition remained and on 3 June 1954 a further no confidence resolution was carried by 34 votes to 6.

At that time it was virtually impossible to reselect an MP, and Braddock and the NEC ignored the resolution. When a further no-confidence motion was carried in March 1955 by 40 votes to 39, the NEC imposed Braddock as candidate and launched a witch-hunting inquiry.

When an adoption meeting was organised, with the election only weeks away and the party faced with virtual disbandment, Braddock was re-adopted by 31 votes to 7, with 26 abstaining. Afterwards Reg Wallis the Labour Party organiser said: "If the party here had not re-adopted Mrs Braddock, then there was the danger that the

CLP would have been disaffiliated and a new party established." To cries of "Heil Hitler" from the left, Braddock was imposed as candidate.

Tragically, one of the leading lefts Councillor Lawrence Murphy resigned from the party after the meeting saying: "I can no longer stand this business of a gun at my head," and declared his intention to stand as independent socialist. Some of the other lefts followed him into the political wilderness.

Left excluded

In the 1955 election Braddock had virtually no support from the party; her only election leaflet was a six inch picture of herself and a short letter to the voters. The result was Braddock (Labour) 19,457, Papworth (Conservative) 12,271 and Murphy (Independent Socialist) 2,928.

After the election a new meeting of the Exchange Labour Party was called by arch-witch-hunter Ray Gunter—incredibly the left delegates were excluded from the meeting and right wingers were in-

stalled as officers. Braddock continued as MP until the 1960s.

The Liverpool Labour Party was dominated by the right wing throughout the 1950s, based on very low involvement in wards and constituencies. In 1956 after a supposed mass membership drive there were 14 out of a total of 40 ward parties with a membership of less than 100, and in three wards—Netherfield, Sandhills and Everton (Jack Braddock's ward) there was **no membership at all.**

The right wing cannot enjoy the same dominance they had in the 1950s. The crisis in the system will impel thousands of left wing workers into the Labour Party in the future.

The Liverpool Labour Party of today will be the national party of tomorrow. The imposed candidates of today will be the forgotten figures of tomorrow. Bessie Braddock was remembered because she was once a class fighter; the present crew cannot even claim that!

By Richard Knights

Militant

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

Triumph for Marxism

THE MILITANT RALLY in the Albert Hall was a magnificent success, and a sharp rebuff to those who thought that support for the paper was in decline. But more than anything else, it was a triumph of political ideas.

As Ted Grant, the political editor of *Militant*, pointed out in his speech to the rally, the ideas of Trotsky have not been suppressed, despite the attempts of Stalinism and the recent witch-hunt in the Labour Party.

The film shown at the Rally, describing the show-trials of 1936, served, Ted Grant pointed out, "to remind the Rally of the nightmarish conditions under which Trotsky had struggled against all the odds to preserve his confidence in the historic role of the working class." Trotsky's struggle has been vindicated by events. Fifty years on, his ideas are more relevant and more attractive to the youth than ever before.

Today there is fundamental social and political crisis in both capitalism and Stalinism.

The Stalinist states cannot even provide the economic results of capitalism in boom. Gorbachev's current reforms will strike temporary blows against the worst evils of the bureaucracy. They may even provide a temporary economic improvement: "But the one thing the Stalinist bureaucrats will not do for the working class is get off their backs."

The Russian revolution began with four conditions for working class control over society: the establishment of soviets and the right of recall over officials; their election to office on the same wages as those they represented; no standing army but an armed people; the rotation of posts—in Lenin's words, every cook should be able to be Prime Minister.

The Stalinist bureaucracy seized power from the working class but they cannot run a society successfully—that requires working class control, with the check that provides at every level. These inherent contradictions will inevitably produce a new revolutionary movement, and because Russia is now the second most powerful industrial nation in the world, its working class is even more powerful than ever.

Insoluble dilemma

As events in Poland showed, the workers will overcome all obstacles and take up the struggle, and when they do it is on the programme of Lenin and Trotsky, for workers' democracy not a return to capitalism.

At the same time capitalism is also in crisis. Even in boom it can only average 2-3 per cent growth. Despite having been a progressive force in the past it can only use 80 per cent of existing productive capacity during boom and 70 per cent, at best, in slump.

Everywhere the capitalists are in despair about the future of their system. The Stock Exchange boom does not reflect a real growth in the economy. Their strategists are now talking about a new 1929 slump. Even if a new '29 style crash is avoided in the next few years it is inevitable at some stage.

It is the responsibility of Marxists to hammer home the facts about the depth of the crisis. The capitalists cannot fuel the engine of the economy. They will not invest when they cannot use the capacity which already exists. They have shown they will put their money anywhere except into the manufacturing basis of the British economy unless it is more profitable than other potential investments.

They are caught in an insoluble dilemma. Profit is the unpaid labour of the working class. In order to increase profits they have to cut the share which goes to the working class. But by doing so they cut the market for their products.

The Labour leaders internationally have so far failed to face up to these realities. Whilst the Marxists fight energetically for the return of a Labour government and support the struggle for every reform they must also explain that capitalism cannot grant lasting reforms.

Internationally workers' parties are going over to counter reforms within a short period of winning elections. A Labour government would follow the same route as those in Australia, France, Spain and Greece if it based its policies on the capitalist economy.

That is why the Marxists have to continually explain the need to change society fundamentally. That is why our ideas terrify the capitalists, the right wing of the labour movement, and unfortunately, even many of the left wing.

But because these ideas correspond to reality, shown in the size of the Rally despite the attacks and expulsions, Marxist ideas will prevail and will prepare the way for the creation of a socialist Britain and a socialist world.

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Confident of

IN A dazzling display of political conviction, with music, lasers and flashing lights, *Militant* on Sunday proved to the world, even to our opponents in the press, that it is a mightier force than ever. "Being there at the rally gives you a special feeling inside you" commented Swansea railwayman Andrew Davies: "When you heard the speakers you could see that the change in society which *Militant* fights for is really going to work". No-one left the Albert Hall without being invigorated with new confidence that socialism is now on the agenda. The comments below from socialists at the rally show that the ideas of Marxism are very much alive and will gain even more support in the future.



NEIL KINNOCK may think that he has got the upper hand after the expulsions of Liverpool socialists. But it was clear from the rally that there is huge potential for rapid growth in support for the policies and ideas of *Militant*.

SANDRA THOMPSON who has two children and is a member of Wallsend Central Labour Party said "*Militant* is the only group with any definite ideas."

One left winger in her party had said to her "If you don't support *Militant* then there is nothing else. You feel you are living in a vacuum." She was a delegate from her union, the GMBATU to the Regional Women's conference, where there was very little debate.

"When I got up to speak on nationalisation of the press it went down like a lead balloon. The only debate was when *Militant* supporters spoke on South Africa."

But she was confident about the future. "A general election is coming, and there are a lot of scores to settle. There is a bit of a lull in the working class at the moment but that could change very quickly."

"*Militant* is the only thing that keeps me going—for my kids and everything."

DAVE MCGARR has just been elected councillor in Holystone ward in North Tyneside. Contradicting the right's obsessive notion that *Militant* policies lose votes he beat off the main challenge from the SDP who ran a 'Militant scare' campaign, by a margin of around 800 votes.

"We fought on a policy of no redundancies, no cuts and a determination to fight rate capping—North Tyneside is being rate-capped." Dave said.

Most opposition came, not from the SDP but from a handful of Labour councillors who complained that selling *Militant* would lose votes. But the greatest help in the election was from the Labour Party Young Socialists.

"On polling day the SDP hired a huge removal van, professionally decked out with *Militant* insignia. They went round with a loud-hailer saying 'vote for Comrade McGarr' in Russian accents but it obviously didn't have the effect they had wished."

"The seat was previously held by an ex-Labour party member who called himself 'Labour against *Militant*'. He was expelled from the Party for crossing the floor of the council chamber



Sandra Thompson.

and voting with the Tories."

Dave added that people in this strongly working class area had begun to see through Kinnock's motives in expulsions and rule changes. "There is no faith in Kinnock", he said. "The straw that broke the camel's back was when the Labour Party brought in the rose. People who previously weren't interested in politics were now saying 'why does Kinnock want these rule changes? What has it got to do with us?'"

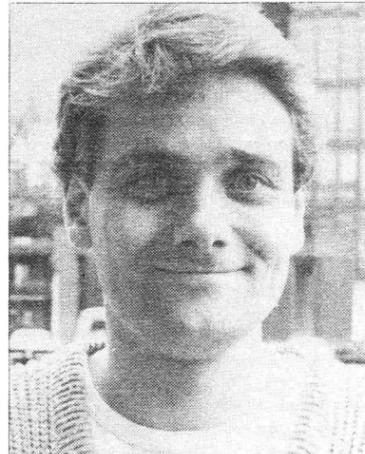
The dilemma for workers caused by Labour's drift to the right was expressed by one person who said: "I hate the Tories and I wouldn't vote for the SDP, but I find it hard to support Labour. What am I supposed to do?"

CHETAN PATEL a member of Peckham Labour Party for five years and active in the technicians' union TASS, explained that Peckham Labour Party has moved sharply to the right since the attacks on Liverpool by the Labour leadership.

"The Party has become apolitical and meetings reduced to squabbling and in-fighting on a personal level. They don't see the need to discuss politics."

"The reaction to *Militant* is still quite hostile from some members of the general management committee. But this has also provoked others to come out and show their belief in socialism and their anger at the way the party is moving."

"The GMC refused to give the LPYS any money to help towards expenses for conference delegates, but one member pulled out his cheque book and immediately wrote a cheque for £20."



Stan Russell.

EDDIE WESTHEAD who works for Townsend Ferries in Dover couldn't get over the Rally. "It's heartening to see so many militants in one go." He wasn't even a Labour Party member. "I don't want to give my money to the national Labour Party coffers so that the right wing get it", he explained. "I want to support the left."

Originally from Liverpool, Eddie believed that his political awareness was a combination of his working class background, and the contrast with his move to the "middle class south". He has supported *Militant* for some time, although not in an active way until recently.

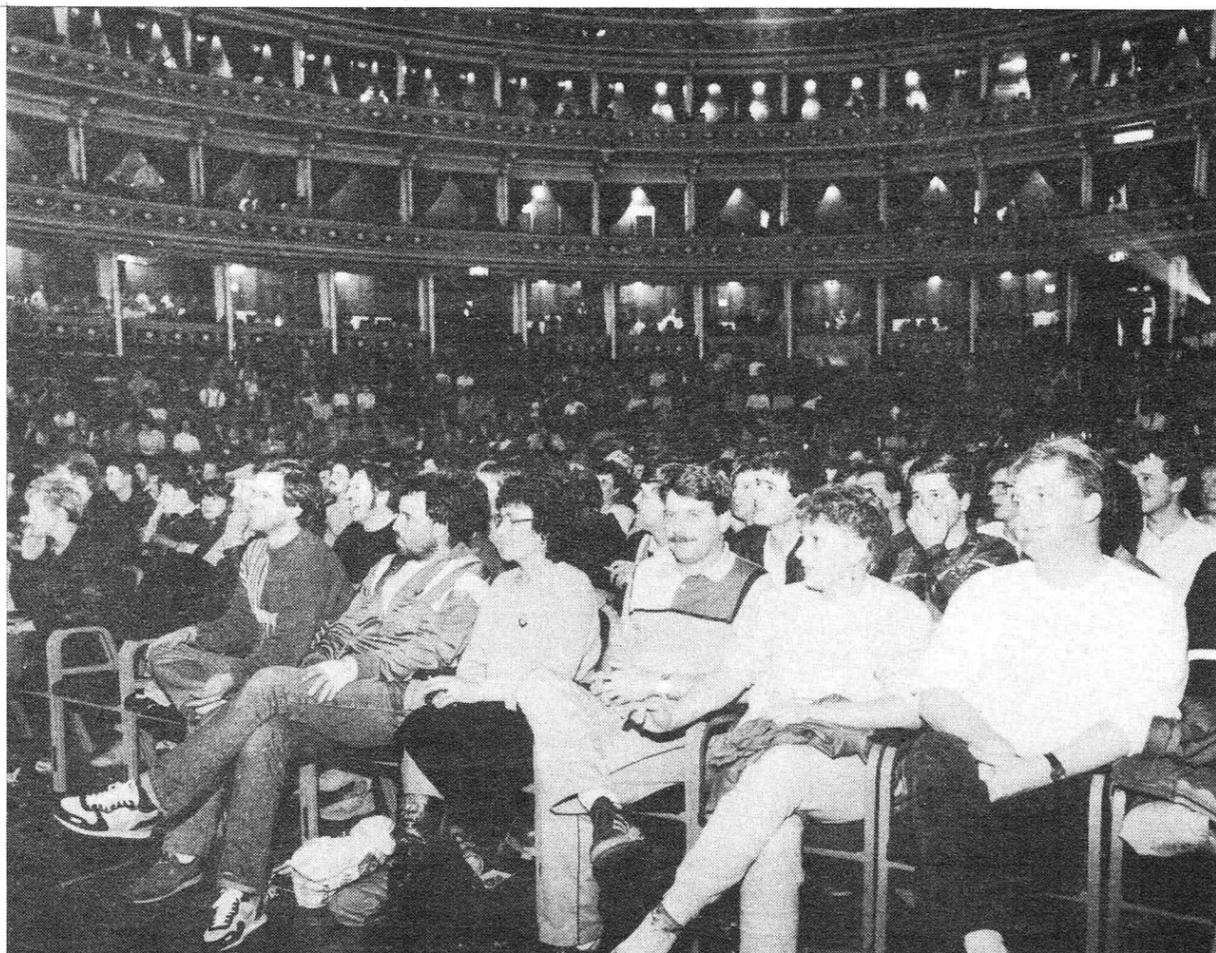
"In the mess room I put my two cents worth in and then get the opposite point of view. I cut out bits from the *Militant* and put them up on the wall. Many of the men say 'Yes I agree with that' but if I put up the front page they would say it's rubbish. Really they are militants themselves but they don't know it."

"They will be begging for *Militant* in the future. We won't have to try to sell it, they will come running. The NUS is run by little cliques. It is a difficult union to organise. If you had a meeting in one place, then many of the men aren't going to travel miles to get to it. So the same people turn up. It's difficult for me to get involved because I got a bad name as a troublemaker when I first came here."

"It's like in an Alistair Maclean novel. It starts off on a ship, 'the scousers are mouthing off in the mess.' It always seems to be the scousers who are blamed for causing trouble."

"The people are ready and willing but it's the leadership of these unions who are doing nothing."

Militant's future



DAVE BINGHAM, a lorry driver for Sheffield council public works department used to be one of those workers who had been taken in by the Right's campaign against *Militant*.

"I thought *Militant* was damaging Labour's chances" he said, "But I met a Militant and listened to his arguments. I went to two or three meetings and in the end I just couldn't disagree with what was said. It just made common sense for the working class good. Now I'm totally committed to it."

He used to be a shop steward. But through lack of any leadership and support he has been out of it for some time. "There are many people out there in a similar situation. They are worrying and trying, but feel they are getting nowhere. The system gets them down and they give up."

"I was the same. Now these lads have given me a lease of life. Now I will be attending the union branch meetings and arguing for the Broad Left. I've got a direction at last."

STAN RUSSELL, a miner at Parsonage colliery, Lancs and active in the NUM, explained that he had moved to the pit from Bold colliery: "The new pit is much smaller" he said. Only a small minority supported the national strike.

"When I first tried to sell the paper in the canteen it had the same effect as throwing a bomb in there. Since then I've sold a couple, but some of the men are interested in the *Militant Miners'* pamphlet. However, most of them will vote Labour because they hate Thatcher."

WALTER HUDSON, 24 years on the buses in Manchester, and a member of Woodhouse Park Labour Party in Wythenshawe, said that when he first joined the party four years ago *Militant* was a nasty word but his was

at least one example where the attacks on the left and the flouting of party democracy had pushed ordinary members towards *Militant's* ideas.

"Now I'm the treasurer and another *Militant* supporter is the secretary of the ward party" says Walter.

He also explained how the new bus deregulation and the moving of Northenden bus depot away from the area is having a dramatic effect on the people of Wythenshawe.

"The feeling of the men at the new depot five miles away has also changed dramatically.

Stay and fight

"Some were Tories" said Walter, "but now all of them would walk out at the drop of a hat. The reason is the stress caused by moving the depot, and the new routes they have to work."

"Often the bosses have to show them the way. Old Age Pensioners are left standing for hours and the service to hospitals is nil. There is a hundred per cent backing for the drivers on the estate."

"Many people are unhappy about the Labour Party," he added, "But I see it swinging towards us. When I started selling *Militant* three months ago I only sold four papers. Now I sell eight. But the feeling of many towards the Labour Party is one of apathy."

"I hope Labour is elected but if Kinnock does nothing then there could be a return to the riots of 1981. My father was involved in the founding of the Labour Party and I remember Ramsay MacDonald when I was a kid. Now I can see the same thing happening with Kinnock as with MacDonald."

"The difference then was that the ILP, the main left wing opposition at the time, left the Labour Party. If they had stopped inside and fought like we are now then we might have had a different Labour Party today."

What the papers say

"THE TENDENCY, determined to show that the past year's setbacks had left it bloodied but unbowed, joined rock and roll effects with political rhetoric in a slick and seamless display." *Guardian*.

"Militant Tendency demonstrated its defiance with a glossy 'high tech' rally at the Albert Hall." *Daily Telegraph*.

"It was *Militant* with lasers, cabaret and amplified music which came to London to prove it was not beaten yet." *Daily Mail*.

"Militant organised a defiant, full hearted gathering... it remains very much alive and totally unrepentant." *Financial Times*.

Police detain LPYS members for 44 hours—for holding a street meeting

THREE LPYS members from Portsmouth were forced to miss Sunday's rally. Last Saturday Portsmouth LPYS members held a street meeting in the main shopping precinct to protest at the record of the Tories and campaign for the return of a Labour government.

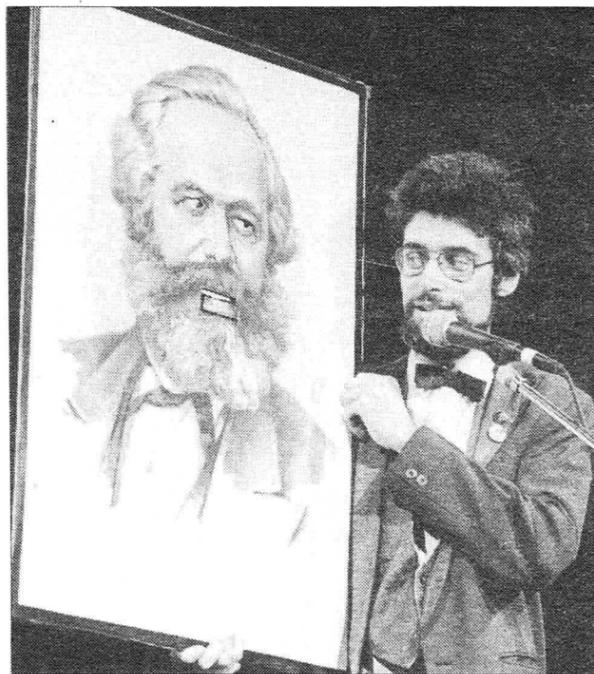
Far more people than usual listened. The police approached. Thinking they aimed to stop the meeting, the comrades called for a vote from the crowd to decide if they should be allowed to carry on. Overwhelmingly they voted yes with only a handful against. But the police arrested three comrades and hauled them off to the police cells. It appears the police were not impressed by 'free speech and democracy'.

Within minutes the campaign to release the comrades started. Local and na-

tional figures in the labour movement including leading national YS members, Terry Fields MP and local councillors Brian Bundy and John Athell phoned the police to ask why the YS members had been arrested and detained.

The police refused to release the three who were all detained under the Justice of the Peace Act 1361 and were locked up for 44 hours until they appeared at a magistrates on Monday morning. Instead of agreeing to be bound over on "good behaviour" (ie not holding any more street meetings) they elected to fight their case which was adjourned until 5 December.

Messages of support and donations towards legal fees to Portsmouth LPYS c/o Portsmouth Labour Party, Holbrook Road, Landport, Portsmouth.



The Marxist magician Ian Southall, above, and Skint Video were amongst the entertainers at the Rally who got an enthusiastic welcome.

LPYS fight apartheid



"THE UNITED colours of Benetton" is the advertising slogan of the largest knitwear producer in Europe. For the last few months Labour Party Young Socialist members in Glasgow have been protesting that the firm are "United" with apartheid and murder.

Benettons has 3,200 outlets throughout the world making it a profit of £42 million in 1985. The firm has a large number of shops in South Africa. These are blood links; high profits come from low wages enforced by the apartheid police and army who have murdered 2,400 black workers and youth.

20 LPYS members occupied their Glasgow stores for two hours and 50 picketed on 25 September (above). This publicity action was a brilliant way of demonstrating clearly the actions of foreign companies investing in South Africa and showed the continuing role of the LPYS of being in

the forefront of the battle against apartheid.

We also collected 500 signatures in support of our action and against all trading links with South Africa, recruited 34 people to the LPYS while only three sales were made at the store on that day.

We call for all Labour local authorities to refuse planning permission to Benetton while their blood links remain. We will make Benetton regret their hypocritical advertising slogan which shows black and white women together in apparent harmony. This from a firm involved with apartheid.

Glasgow LPYS members have a good record of fighting apartheid. They have collected for Dunnes strikers in Dublin who refused to sell South African goods. And we have raised money from the movement for BTR strikers.

It is vital for young workers and unemployed to fight for workers sanctions and build for liberation in a socialist South Africa.

MILITANT WINTER DRAW

Send orders to Fighting Fund department, or available from your local *Militant* sellers.

Wonderful Prizes:

1st Prize: Fortnight's holiday in Spain for two worth £500.

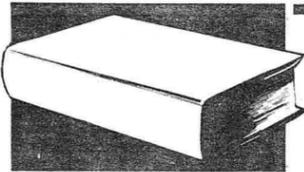
2nd Prize: Weekend in Paris for two worth £250.

3rd Prize: Colour TV worth £150.

4th Prize: Radio Cassette worth £50.

5th and 6th Prizes: Two prizes each of £25 gift token from World Socialist Books.

Tickets 10p each.



Book Reviews

Fontamara— Ignazio Silone Everyman Press

BERARDO VIOLA was a strong man. In fact he once carried a donkey on his shoulders to the top of a church tower. But he did not have any land. Don Circonstanza swindled him out of it.

Berardo loved Elvira, the daughter of Nazzarena, but he could not marry her because she had a dowry and he had no land.

Berardo went to Rome in search of work, get rich and buy land. Instead he died a needless death in one of Mussolini's prisons. Some said it was inevitable he would follow his grandfather to the gallows. Others argued he was just another victim of life's injustices.

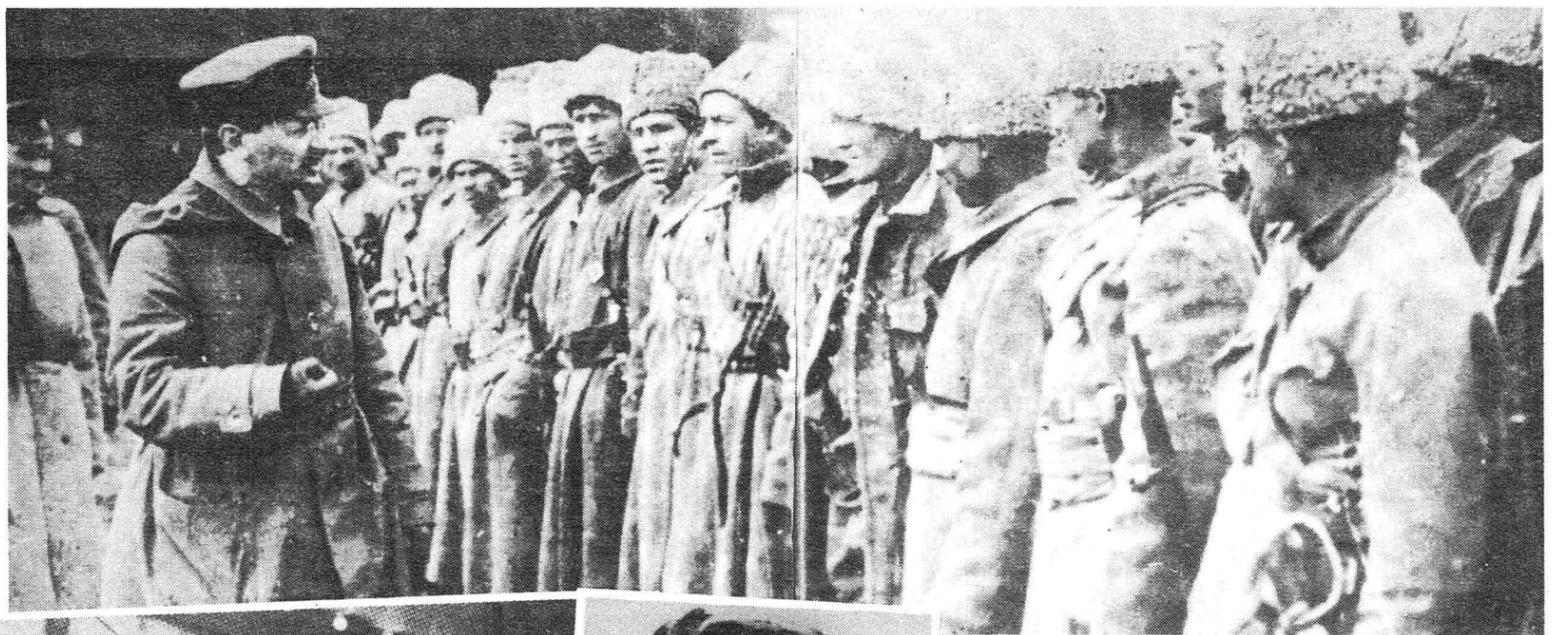
Terror of fascism

After his death the villagers of Fontamara produced a newspaper headlined: "What Are We To Do?" They have taken away our water — what are we to do? The Priest refuses to bury our dead — what are we to do? They violate our women in the name of the law — what are we to do? Don Circonstanza is a scoundrel — what are we to do?

Hardly anyone in the village lived to tell the tale. The tyranny and terror of fascism saw to that.

'Fontamara' by Ignazio Silone is scarcely more than a long short story. But, when you have finished it, you will wish you had read it much earlier in your life.

By Bob Wylie



'Assembly Lines' by Tim Lewis.

Available from World Books 3/13 Hepscoot Road, London E9 5HB. Price: £1.25 + 20p P+P.

SPONSORED BY the Joint Shop Stewards Committee, this book is a collection of prose and poetry concerning workers at Coventry's massive Massey-Ferguson tractor plant.

Tim Lewis keenly observes the site and its people recording the boredom, isolation and - most importantly - the humour.

In some respects the book's strength is uneven and at times is visually difficult. For some reason the poems are all in italic script. Nevertheless it is a good attempt; there's far too little of this kind of material around, and very reasonably priced.

By Bob Stothard

Trotsky—a photographic biography by David King

A NEW pictorial history of Trotsky's life is now in the shops.

Using over 400 photographs from David King's collection, many of which have not been widely seen before, this book gives a graphic account of Trotsky's life and the titanic

events in which he played such an important part.

Alongside the pictures James Ryan's commentary guides the reader from Trotsky's childhood through the 1917 Revolution to the struggle against and eventual assassination by Stalin.

The book is bright and well presented. With only a few shopping days left to Christmas it might solve one of your problems. At £19.50, however, it will be a bit too pricey for many pockets.

By Steve Edwards

Tele-politics

TELEVISION AND Number 10, two programmes last week on BBC 2 showed how politicians have been forced to come to terms with what Harold MacMillan called the "hot, unblinking, probing eye."

As the Suez crisis of 1956 approached, Anthony Eden accused "communists at the BBC of shining lights in my eyes" and exploded with anger at a filmed report of Nye Bevan's attack on him. A '14 day' rule prohibiting any newsreel mention of matters currently debated in Parliament was swept away. While addressing the nation as Prime Minister, Eden instructed the BBC to refuse Labour leader Gaitskell, the right to reply.

TV was always live and question

and answer sessions were practised for hours before transmission. Impartiality was defined by the BBC as being deferential, especially to the Prime Minister. The coming of Independent Television catapulted TV news coverage way ahead of the timid BBC.

Their new personalised style broke both Macmillan and Alec Douglas-Home. The next Labour Prime Minister, Harold Wilson scored heavily for being identified as an 'ordinary chap'. In power he brought not socialist policies but show-biz to Downing Street.

The 1974 General Election caused by the second miners' strike saw Wilson instructing his 'image-builders' to "prepare for an election fought on TV" with presentation more important than policy. The present Labour leadership is swallowing the same bait.

Interestingly enough, Tebbit ac-



causes the BBC of 'bias' just as Eden and Wilson before him. Whilst programme makers have an inflated opinion of their medium and its power, many well-known broadcasters have sought seats in Parliament: Christopher Chataway, Tim Brinton, Jeremy Thorpe, Robin Day, Ludovic Kennedy, and Geoffrey Johnson-Smith.

By Bob Stothard.

◀ Left and Right ▶

Big City Scam

IN THE City, according to a *Labour Research* investigation, 24 directors and nine employees earn £250,000 or more per year. 361 directors and 67 employees earn more than £100,000 per year.

Last year only 181 directors and 29 employees made over a hundred grand. The effects of the 'Big Bang' have yet to be assessed.

City clerks and typists do less well. 31 per cent of them earn less than £100 per week as do 34 per cent of telephonists and receptionists.

In the service sector catering workers get £80-£90 a week, and the rate for a Lloyds branch cleaner? £77.66 a week.

Going, going, gone

THE NEXT Lord of Snodhill in Herefordshire will be the highest bidder at an auction held in London.

More than 100 titles to English manors are up for sale and bidders from around the world are expected to fork out £10,000 each for a swanky handle, a coat of arms and mineral excavation rights to a few acres of countryside.

Lawler's order

PAT WALL'S opponent at the next General Election, Tory MP Geoff Lawler (Bradford North), is already desperate for an income after his coming defeat.

Posing with several contestants from the 'Miss World' competition in London last week, Batchelor Boy Lawler claimed "I would marry any one of them!" The cash prizes and spin-offs, especially for the winner, are considerable.

Popeye the sailor

ELMO R Zimwalt got lost when out jogging in Houston, Texas. He had no money for a phone call and no glasses to read the directory. The number he wanted to ring was unlisted (top secret) so Elmo had to ring the Pentagon to find out where he was staying. A building worker kindly gave him a lift to his host's house.

The worker was interested in the job held by a man who couldn't read and didn't know where he lived. "I run the Navy" said Elmo.

Pledge to sell Militant

AT MILITANT'S mass rally everyone present was urged to pledge to help boost the sales of our paper. They were reminded that a twice weekly *Militant* depends on an extra effort from every seller.

Enthusied by the speakers they pledged to help get the ideas they had heard across to more new people. Those who already sell pledged to sell more. Supporters on one coach from Manchester pledged to sell over 100 extra papers a week. In addition many who had never attended a *Militant* rally before promised to start selling the paper.

A new supporter from Wolverhampton pledged to start selling eight per week at his college. A school student from Sussex pledged to try and sell five at school and a new seller from Lancs promised to sell outside three factories each week to try and reach a personal target of 20.

If you were unable to attend the rally, or did not fill in a pledge, it's not too late to commit yourself to help build the *Militant*. Please fill in the form below and send it to us or hand it in to your local sales organiser.



PLEDGE

I pledge to help boost the sales of *Militant*.
I can sell an extra . . . papers every week.
I would like to become a seller.

Name

Address

.

Phone

Details of where you will be trying, eg. name of workplace, union branch etc:

.

I am not receiving copies of *Militant* and would like them sent to the above address tick if applicable.

Stalker and police accountability

Feature
by Mike
Lee

Militant stands for

- ★ Police Committees that only comprise democratically elected local councillors.
- ★ Police Committees to have the power to appoint and dismiss chief constables and other senior officers, and to be responsible for all policing policy, not just finance and resources.
- ★ An independent police complaints procedure, with democratically elected complaints boards.
- ★ The right of the police to join democratic trade unions.

THE STALKER affair ended for most people with his re-instatement by the Greater Manchester Police Authority, but the affair is rumbling on.

His deputy on the RUC inquiry team, Chief Superintendent John Thomas, has resigned after 30 years from the Manchester force, leaving the prospect of a whitewash inquiry into the RUC as highly likely.

Kevin Taylor, the businessman at the centre of the alleged friendship with Stalker, has taken Chief Constable Anderton to court and failed in an attempt to gain access to the so-called evidence

against him.

The head of Manchester's Police Cheque Squad has been suspended for the past six months after an allegation that bail was sold to a criminal.

James Anderton, Chief Constable, has also to submit a report to the Home Secretary on his handling of the Stalker affair. He has refused to answer speculation concerning his personal lifestyle—such as dinner he had at the house of Mr Freddie Pye, a well known former scrap dealer prominent in the world of football, from whom Anderton accepted a presentation gift ironically of an

old miners' lamp.

Mr Anderton accepted a kind invitation to take a holiday in the Algarve apartment of businessmen Luis Anton.

Anderton's links with businessmen in the city and Stalker's links with ex-Tory Association Chairman Taylor, have only been pursued by the five left wing Labour councillors from Manchester on the Police Authority. The right-wing Labour councillors from other councils have not pursued these issues in the interests of 'police morale.'

JOHN STALKER was sent to Northern Ireland in 1984 to investigate allegations of a shoot to kill policy operated by E4A, a secret RUC covert surveillance unit, in conjunction with RUC mobile support units. Members were handpicked and trained to 'neutralise' and 'eliminate' any threat.

It was the case of seventeen year old Michael Tighe that attracted most attention. He was shot dead in a hayshed in 1982. As the hayshed was bugged, the whole operation was taped, calling seriously into question the official view that the RUC support unit stumbled across suspicious activity there and were confronted by two armed men. Tighe was unarmed and had no link with paramilitary organisations.

Refused tape

Stalker interviewed the RUC constable who heard the whole recording, and the army major who took possession of the tape after the shooting.

Sir John Hermon RUC Chief Constable refused to hand over the tape. In April 1985 Stalker threatened to resign because of lack of co-operation.

Eventually he got permission from the Northern Ireland Director of Public Prosecutions, Barry Shaw, to get the co-operation he needed including the tape. Stalker was known to have recommended murder charges against senior RUC officers. He was on the verge of returning to Northern Ireland to listen the tape and to interview Sir John Hermon under caution.

He never made it. He was put under investigation



himself and taken off this inquiry with the connivance, according to the *Observer*, of the Attorney General and the Home Secretary.

Clearly then the Stalker inquiry was seen by the British ruling class, as part of a package of measures designed to make the Anglo-Irish Agreement more

palatable to Dublin, and the Catholic population. The British ruling class were striving to make it appear that they were attempting to neutralise the sectarian image of the RUC and to break up these special shoot to kill squads.

But Stalker's findings would have made it extreme-

ly difficult for the Dublin government to seriously sell the Anglo-Irish Agreement to the Catholic population.

And the prosecution for murder of several high ranking RUC police officers for murder would have caused a revolt in the RUC.

The deafening silence from the Labour front benches

on the real issues behind the Stalker affair, should make it doubly the concern of Marxists to campaign for real police accountability, and to explain to workers the nature and role of the state and how the next Labour government can meet the challenge it poses.

50p + 20p
postage. Available
from World
Socialist Books,
3/13 Hepscott
Road, London E9
5HB.

'I BELIEVE a political decision was taken at the very highest level, Home Office or above, that Stalker had to be removed.'

I believe this because Stalker was positively vetted at least twice before he went to the inquiry, and I believe he would have done a whitewash for the Tory government.

Only when he came across the case of Michael Tighe did he find it impossible to live with the inescapable fact that he had been murdered by an RUC undercover squad. Only then did he present a more factual report.

If you take into account also that this inquiry took place against the background of the signing of the Anglo-Irish Agreement, they were going to have to ask the RUC Chief Constable to take action against his own—men...

At this stage MI5 became involved and Stalker was removed. The ensuing Sampson report was absolute rubbish only confirming our views that it was a conspiracy.

This only highlights the case for an independent inquiry, and police accountability as we in Manchester have argued for.

Tony McCardell—
Manchester City Councillor and chair of the Policy and Finance Committee of the Greater Manchester Police Authority.

The men who lead Manchester's police force ...

IT WAS John Stalker who ordered the Tactical Aid Group to attack a student demonstration against the then Home Secretary, Leon Brittan. He then refused to appear on BBC's *Out of Court* Programme along with two students, to discuss the incident. A few years ago he waved aloft at a Police Authority meeting a photograph of himself shaking hands with President Pinochet of Chile.

James Anderton allowed armed machine gun officers to patrol in unmarked cars, but omitted to inform the Police Authority. On BBC *Question Time* in 1979 he said: "basic crime such as— theft, burglary, even violent crimes—will not be the predominant police feature. What will be the greatest concern to me will be the covert and ultimately overt attempt to overthrow democracy, to subvert the authority of the state."

and the committee that monitors them

TONY MCCARDELL is also chair of Manchester City Council's Police Monitoring Committee. He described to *Militant* its role.

Just after we were set up there was a police riot at the University against students demonstrating against the visit of the Home Secretary Leon Brittan.

The council initiated an independent inquiry into the events, after Brittan refused the police authority the right to an independent enquiry under the 1964 Act.

Subsequently we took up the case of Stephen Shaw, a student witness and recipient of the attack.

More recently we have campaigned against the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill and the Public Order Bill.

We publish a "Police Watch Bulletin" distributed to every Manchester ratepayer, which is a platform for the views of people who would not

get their views aired through the normal media channels.

We are also looking to establish a city wide council security force, and working on guidelines for city council departments who have relations with the police and for those relations to become more formalised.

(Editor: the Police Monitoring Committee has asked the Direct Works Department to notify the Housing Department of each case of damage to council property by police activity.)

Financial powers

At present the Direct Works Department repairs damages and the council pays the bill.

In future the Police Authority may have to foot the bill!

The only power the present Police

Authority has is financial, in that we can refuse to pay for some things the police want.

Having said that even those powers have been diluted.

Under the Metropolitan Counties Abolition Bill, for the first three years of the new Police Authority, the Home Secretary has the right to countermand any decisions made by the Authority on financial matters.

For example the Authority told the Chief Constable, Anderton, that he could not purchase plastic bullets. He simply got them from the Home Secretary.

We felt the Authority was not being allowed to function democratically, and that another form of monitoring to campaign for real accountability was needed.

The proud banner of Marxism

Peter Taaffe

PETER TAAFFE, editor of *Militant* warned the ruling class:

"*Militant* is a new phenomenon. We are not careerists who climb to the top on workers' backs then haul away the ladder.

"We don't echo the honeyed phrases of the TUC about bringing together the CBI and the working class. *Militant* expresses the rage of workers at conditions, but more, we lead a fightback. The bosses never forgave Liverpool for beating them in 1984; and they could



never have got revenge without the Labour and trade union leaders. "*Militant* will fight for a

Labour election victory but we will warn of the lessons of France and Spain, the crisis of capitalism worldwide and the particular sickness of British capitalism. We will link the problems to the need for a socialist transformation."

Peter Taaffe warned the Labour leaders they would never be forgiven if the witch hunt lost Labour the election, and finished with an appeal to the audience to rally "to the spotless banner of Marxism, the banner of your approaching victory."

Tony Mulhearn

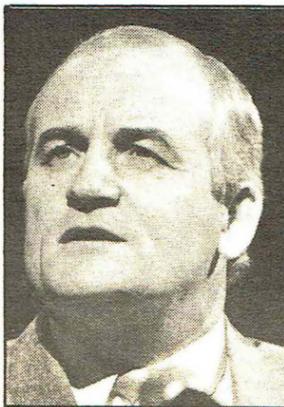
TONY MULHEARN, president of Liverpool District Labour Party, told the rally of the "Alice in Wonderland" attitude of the Labour Party which had expelled him and his colleagues. "They decided a verdict before they held the trial", he said.

"But no matter what the right may do", Tony pledged, "they can't wish away all the contracting conditions of British capitalism. By the 1990's all manufacturing industry jobs will be

wiped out in Liverpool and unemployment will go through the roof.

"Mr Kinnock is now basking in the gratitude of the Fleet Street barons. But the working class will say when he is elected 'Let's hope you are as tough with the ruling class as you have been with Liverpool.'"

"The best days of socialism and *Militant* lie ahead. We will convert Liverpool from the deathbed of capitalism to the birthplace of socialism."



Nimrod Sejake

NIMROD SEJAKE, exiled South African trade union leader received one of the warmest receptions.

He described how his experiences as General Secretary of the Iron and Steel trade union and his struggle against the pass laws had brought him to the conclusion that only a socialist Southern Africa could solve the problems of South African workers.

He gave examples of the tremendous combativity of the South African working class: mass strikes of 1½ million this May Day and 3 million on the 16 June Soweto anniversary—in spite of brutal police repression.

Solidarity was being built on an international scale too, he said, with the campaign launched by *Militant* and *Inqaba*. In one day alone £1,000 had been



collected in Glasgow and Newcastle and successful collections have taken place in countries such as Sweden, Denmark and the United States.

With the founding of COSATU, Nimrod was confident that the fight would end in victory, a feeling echoed by the 5,000 strong audience.

Ted Grant



A tremendous ovation was given to TED GRANT, political editor and founder of *Militant*, who in his keynote speech, explained the durability and modern relevance of Trotsky's ideas. An edited version appears in the form of the editorial comment on page 4.

Derek Hatton



DEREK HATTON, "proud to be speaking as deputy leader of Liverpool City Council," reiterated the council's tremendous achievements in house building, nursery school building, providing jobs in the face of opposition on all fronts.

"Attacks have been launched from the media, the press and the Tories, to split the people of Liverpool," he said, "but the only attack to have had

any effect so far had been from the trade union and Labour leaders." In spite of the confusion created, support is continuing to grow for *Militant*, he added, and this is what frustrates the leaders of the Labour Party.

The keynote of Derek's speech was the determination of Liverpool councillors to carry on: "We're here to stay and here to fight."

Jim Brookshaw

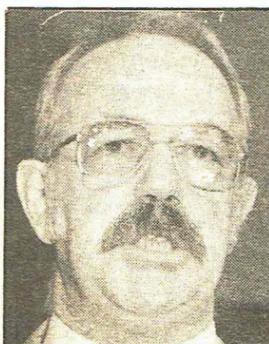
JIM BROOKSHAW, FOC of the AEU on the *Times* typified the willingness of many workers to fight for their jobs, only to be frustrated by Tory laws and their union leaders' weakness in combatting them.

"Many printworkers were not opposed to holding a ballot," he said "but even after a majority voted in favour of the strike, the anti-trade union

laws were used against us. The ballot meant nothing."

"The TUC won't discipline the EETPU scabs let alone call for solidarity action. The printworkers are truly lions led by donkeys.

"If we could add to the willingness of those workers ready to fight, a leadership ready to lead, then we would be invincible."



★ Doreen Purvis' speech. See back page.



Militant

The speeches, the films, the laser shows and above confidence of the audience that socialism was the made the Rally the outstanding political event of

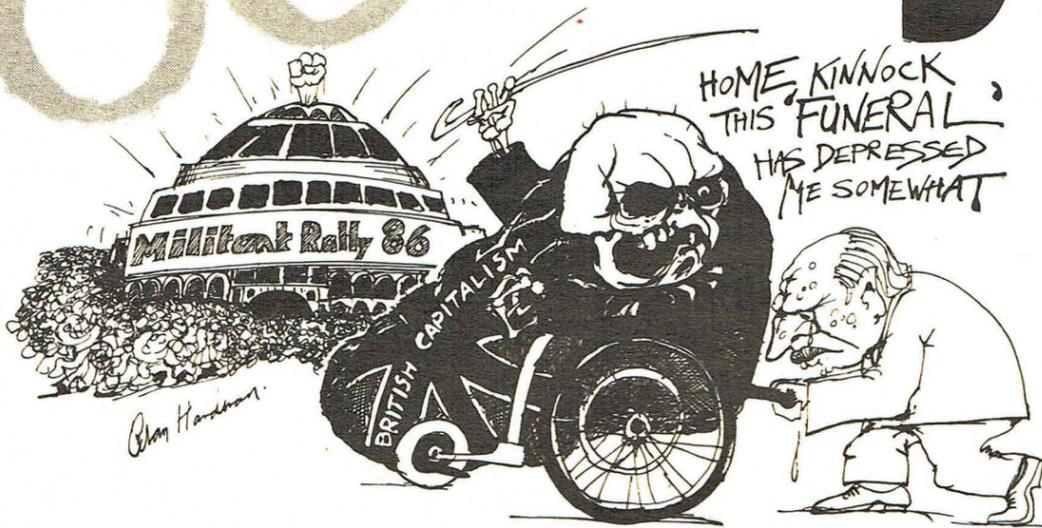




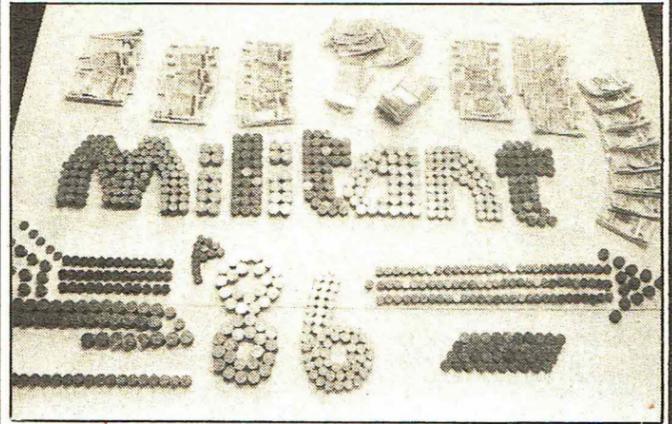
Photos: Dave Sinclair and Mick Carroll.

86 Rally

all the future, 1986.



£34,623 collection!



THE MAGNIFICENT fighting fund collection at last Sunday's rally struck a blow against those who wish to see *Militant* defeated. More than that, it was a crushing refutation of the attempts of the media to write us off.

The 1985 rally collection had gone over its target to reach the huge sum of £26,500 but this year it surpassed even that massive amount. The final total zoomed up at laser speed to a magnificent £34,623.99!

The *Militant* 'cashometer' appeared on screen as the first donation came in, submitted anonymously from someone involved with *Militant* since its inception who had moved into smaller accommodation and donated the proceeds of £5,000!

Then followed a quick succession of six individual donations including one of £1,000 from supporters receiving injury compensation and one selling a house!

Billy Blackstock formerly senior staff representative at Britoil, Glasgow, was recently made redundant. On top of this his flat was burgled only a few weeks ago. He still handed in his redundancy pay of £700 with the message "Towards a Daily *Militant*".

Betty Bell, a disabled supporter from Havant pledged £500 and Eric Segal from Folkestone handed in a brand new camera worth £300 with a note: "I want it to be used to take some of the first photographs for our Daily paper."

Diane Andrews from Basildon gave over a social security cheque; MA O'Driscoll from Bristol pledged £5 "when I get my gas meter rebate"; a single parent pledged £50; Pat

and Ian McEwan from Cleethorpes pledged two weeks child benefit of £60!

A very special pledge came from Carly Jane North aged 10 who promises us £20 from insurance money when her toys were burnt in a fire at her house! Mossley Hill supporters pledged £350 and also pledged to ditch Peter Kilfoyle.

Donations came from all over the globe: £100 from "Struggle" supporters, Pakistani marxists; £100 from NSSP Sri Lanka; £200 from Derek Foster from Holland; 1,500 Belgian francs and a marvellous donation of 100 rand from the interior of South Africa. (See below).

Tony Bennett after 17 months on strike from Silentnight gave a donation of £20. Donations poured in so fast there was not enough time to mention them. May we say special thanks to everyone who gave.

Many supporters at the rally had already donated a whole week's wage to our £¼m campaign but were willing to give again. Our grand total including rally collection stands at £90,006. With your help we can send our 'cashometer' zooming over the top.

If you have not donated a week's income yet send it in now or if you couldn't attend the rally send us a donation.

We need that extra staff and equipment to set us on the road to a Daily *Militant*. Give *Militant* the best Xmas present ever! Celebrate the festive season in the best way possible by providing us the resources for a twice weekly paper.

Forward to a Marxist Daily, forward to £¼ million!

By Ruth Campbell

S African Marxists' message

The following message, from workers inside South Africa, who are supporters of *Inqaba* and the Marxist Workers' Tendency of the ANC, was read out to acclaim at the Rally.

"Warm greetings to the 22nd Anniversary Rally of *Militant*. During the past two years the only reliable ally of workers and youth in South Africa, struggling under the banner of the ANC to smash apartheid and capitalism, has been the international working class.

"The program, solidarity and support given by *Militant* to the socialist revolution in South Africa has been an inspiration, and indispensable to our daily work. The struggle of the people of Liverpool, their stand in the face of vicious capitalist propaganda and attacks by the Labour leadership, shows the power and will of British workers to struggle.

"Only a united struggle by the working class internationally, only an unswerving commitment to international socialism, only a program based on genuine Marxism, will assure our victory. The weekly *Militant* has been a beacon to all our comrades, who eagerly await its arrival, discussing it and using it as a day-to-day tool in building the forces of Marxism in the United Democratic Front, in COSATU, and in the ANC.

"The possibility of a twice-weekly paper excites in us a warm pride for the work of the Marxists in Britain and internationally. To help realise the target of £250,000 we ask this Rally to accept a modest contribution of R100 (one hundred rands).

"We also salute comrade Nimrod Sejake for more than 30 years of unflinching support for the struggle of workers and youth for democracy and socialism in South Africa."

- ★ For a mass ANC on a socialist program!
- ★ Phambili nomzabalazo basebenzi!
- ★ Forward with the workers' struggle world-wide!
- ★ Forward to a twice-weekly *Militant*.

Thatcher-Reagan back right-wing terror

**Militant
Exclusive**

THERE IS no doubt that semi-clandestine meetings of military experts regularly take place to discuss "unofficially" how to back up the political and economic interests of capitalism internationally.

'Special' or under cover military operations have always been a vital adjunct to modern warfare. Even during the last war the British Army had secret operations units which attempted to steer the longer term developments in various countries in favour of British capitalism.

In 'peacetime' such operations play a similar, though more covert, role. More recently both Thatcher and Reagan have committed themselves to a virulent campaign against what they call "international terrorism".

They hypocritically play on the fears of millions of people about terrorist bombs and killings as a pretext for support for right-wing terrorism. Their aim is to undermine left wing popular movements or regimes which threaten the interests of capitalism.

Libya bombing

The real intentions behind the US bombing of Libya apart from a popularity boost for Reagan, was an attempt to bring Gaddafi's regime to an end.

Gaddafi's regime is not socialist but his radical postures make him a figurehead of opposition to US interests in all the Arab states.

There is little doubt that US military assistance has indirectly been given to right wing movements such as UNITA in Angola, the MNR in Mozambique and the Contras in Nicaragua.

Under the auspices of fighting "terrorism" an international campaign of right wing terror is being organised.

The evidence which *Militant* has obtained concerning the Defense and Foreign Affairs group conference, points towards the possibility of setting up another political and military force operating on behalf of world-wide capitalism.

The Defense and Foreign Affairs group appears to have been going for 12 years. It is closely connected with US intelligence. The ex-director of the CIA, William E Colby, was until recently the

group's publisher. The new publisher is an ex-civil servant, Martin Shaw—making another British connection with the group. He joined the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in 1972, leaving in 1984 to live in Washington.

Colby is now president of the International Strategic Studies Association, which was also co-sponsor of the London conference on 'counter terror' with the Defense and Foreign Affairs group.

Vietnam

The ISSA describes itself as a "membership organisation of defense, political, intelligence, diplomatic and defense industry professionals."

Colby has a long history of experience with 'special military operations'. During the Vietnam War he supervised a programme aimed at 'neutralising' the National Liberation Front. Over 20,000 cadres were killed according to figures supplied by Colby. Afterwards he was promoted to director of the CIA by Nixon.

The CIA has throughout its history enhanced its operations by the use of apparently legitimate US companies or organisations. The links between ITT and the CIA and operations aimed at undermining Allende's government in Chile are well-known.

Significantly at the London 'counter terror' conference participants from industries "involved in special operations" were invited to attend. Facilities were made available for "small items of equipment" to be shown on a display table.

The former British SAS officer, David Walker, who was invited to speak is also a director of KMS Industries Inc. This Michigan based firm does research and development in advanced optics, thermonuclear energy using lasers and manufactures aspheric optical products. One of the subjects on the agenda for discussion was "night vision and other surveillance gear, tubular optics etc."

The Washington Post reported earlier this year that the Defense and Foreign Affairs journal was planning to expand its advertising and editorial staff in both Washington and London. This, the appointment of an ex-British Foreign Office civil



Above: The Honourable Artillery Company headquarters in London where the conference on 'counter-terror' was billed to take place.

servant as publisher and the holding of such a conference in London, may indicate a desire to build its international links in Britain and other countries.

The group's journal is extremely well informed, giving up to date and detailed information on political developments and manoeuvring of political groups in various countries. Right-wing activities or any development which may promise an opening for special operations is highlighted.

Philippines

The most blatant is in the report of recent US aid to the Nicaraguan contras. It is not co-incidental that a CIA agent was recently shot down by Nicaraguan forces running arms to the contras.

The November 3-9 edition of the journal reports on the recent pro-Marcos demonstrations in the Philippines. Defence minister Juan Enrile delivered a "fiery speech" to an "anti-communist" rally of Marcos supporters in Manila.

"Addressing 20,000 pro-Marcos supporters he proposed an eight-point programme to rid the country of communism. At times

chants of 'down with Cory' could be heard leading to further speculation that Enrile may be planning to take matters into his own hands once again".

The fact that this conference took place in British Army premises—the Honourable Artillery Company (curiously referred to as "traditionally 'on the right of the line' of the British Army"), and that British Army officers were invited to take part, points to at least indirect government support for this event. The government is responsible for all the actions of all senior serving officers in the armed forces.

The Labour Party must demand a full explanation from the government about this, and other conferences of its type, and the supposed participation of British Army officers.

The Labour leaders must expose the Tories' real intentions of aiding and abetting US imperialism and its efforts to undermine the growing popular movements demanding fundamental changes throughout the world.

By Militant reporters



Military plot state terror

(Continued from page 1)

Clearly this conference was intended to bring together military experts with experience of knowledge in counter-acting, what is euphemistically called 'terrorism'—but could include any radical or popular movement throughout the world.

The possibilities of establishing an international counter-terrorist squad would, no doubt, have been discussed and how it should be run and who would be involved. Some of the participants may well have been giving their own experiences of special operations.

In Nicaragua, Mozambique and Angola thousands have been killed and widespread damage caused by right-wing terror operations and open military intervention against legitimate governments in these countries.

The aims of this conference to establish a permanent force of counter terror, against left wing regimes fits in perfectly with the established views of Thatcher and Reagan.

The Labour movement must use this issue to launch a powerful campaign exposing the Tories' hypocrisy and their support for right-wing terror.

Iran

THATCHER AND her right-wing colleagues, US President Reagan and French Prime Minister Chirac, were supposed to have a shared commitment to make no concessions to terrorism in any shape or form. Now that position, never more than a facade in any case, is publicly in ruins.

While Thatcher was pushing ahead with her anti-

Syrian campaign, the US and France were secretly negotiating with the Syrian and Iranian governments over the release of hostages held by pro-Iranian militias in Lebanon.

Chirac has apparently gone so far as to suggest that the allegedly Syrian-inspired Hindawi terrorist attempt, that Thatcher bases her anti-Syrian case on, was an act of provocation by Israeli agents!

The US has had a long-standing embargo on arms

deals for Iran. But as part of the hostages deal, Tehran is getting US military supplies for use in the war against Iraq. Meanwhile, the US is still supplying Iran's enemy, Iraq.

Egypt

LAST WEEK Egyptian President Mubarak dismissed his government without warning in the latest of a series of reshuffles.

The new prime minister

and his nine new ministers have "little or no experience in the political arena", writes the *Financial Times's* Cairo correspondent. They are ex-state officials, with the specific task of imposing new austerity policies on the Egyptian masses.

Egyptian capitalism is sinking fast. The collapse in the oil price has been its latest disaster. Arrears of \$4.3 billion are owing on its \$39 billion foreign debt. Its rulers are desperately seeking a new loan of \$1 billion from

the International Monetary Fund.

But the IMF is demanding its usual pound of flesh—including the phasing out of food subsidies by the Egyptian government, which would price food out of the reach of millions who are presently on the breadline.

This places Egypt's rulers in a cleft stick. They are terrified of the mass struggles which would be unleashed by new attacks on living standards—but they have no alternative to managing the

crippled capitalist system.

The new government of puny bureaucrats is Mubarak's answer. He has ordered it to take "effective action" against "civil disobedience".

New waves of revolutionary struggle will smash down Mubarak's facade, and call the 'strong man' himself to account for the misery which the Egyptian working people are enduring.

South Africa, Iran

South African workers tell of struggle

TRANVAAL ALLOYS is a vanadium-producing mine 250 kilometers east of Johannesburg. It is wholly owned by Norddeutsche Affinerie, a West German multinational.

For years Transvaal Alloys has exploited the system of migrant labour, paying appalling wages and housing workers in overcrowded hostels.

In 1983, following a work stoppage to demand negotiations on union recognition and a wage increase, management fired 200 workers—almost the entire workforce. Workers were then being paid 55 cents an hour—less than 30 per cent of the standard wage in the industry, and about 25 per cent of the “minimum living level” for a family of five.

After three years the victimised workers still meet monthly as their union, the Metal and Allied Workers' Union, continues to negotiate for their reinstatement.

Frans Dolo, one of the workers, tells of their dismissal:

“It was on 18 November when we told management that we wanted an increase of our wages to R2.80 an hour. We made it clear that R2.80 was not final. That was only our suggestion. We were prepared to negotiate.

“But management refused to talk. On 21 November they arrived very early. They brought the police with them and locked the factory gates. This surprised us. We noticed that they had already made out our wages. It means that on the 18th, when we gave them our

WHAT CONDITIONS were like at Transvaal Alloys in 1983:

“If we reported late for work they would deduct an hour's wage, even if one was only two minutes late..”

“There used to be 25 of us in one room (in the hostel). Sometimes more than 25. We used to bring dirty clothes from work and had to keep them where we slept.”

demands, they started getting our wages ready.

“So they said to us that morning, those who want to work should stand on the one side, those who don't should stand on the other. We told them, we all want to work, but we want you to increase our wages.

“And then they gave us ten minutes to go to work. When we did not respond, they said now look, this is what we do now. You are going to get your wages. My witnesses are the police. They witness that I am giving you your money, and you all go home.”

Arrested

Management refused workers access to their hostels. They spent the night in the veld, and were arrested the next morning for holding an “illegal gathering”. After three days behind bars, they were released when the union paid admission-of-guilt fines.

The workers do not qualify for any unemployment benefit. Frans Dolo now ekes out a living by repairing shoes and making



BMW worker speaks at protest meeting.

sandals from worn-out car tyres.

With unemployment close to 50 per cent, dismissed workers have very little chance of finding new jobs.

Another man describes what this means:

“After we were fired the suffering started. We would try to make money by digging pit latrines or chopping firewood. Today we don't know what to do. We eat roots we get from the hills and beg for food from our neighbours.

“Some of our neighbours have become irritable. They are tired of us begging every day. But what can we do. When our kids wake up, they want food. When the sun sets, they want food. Where do we get the food if we don't beg? Our salvation is the roots we dig from the hills.”

MAWU has made repeated attempts to reach conciliation with Transvaal Alloys. Appeals have been made to international labour organisations and links have been established with IG

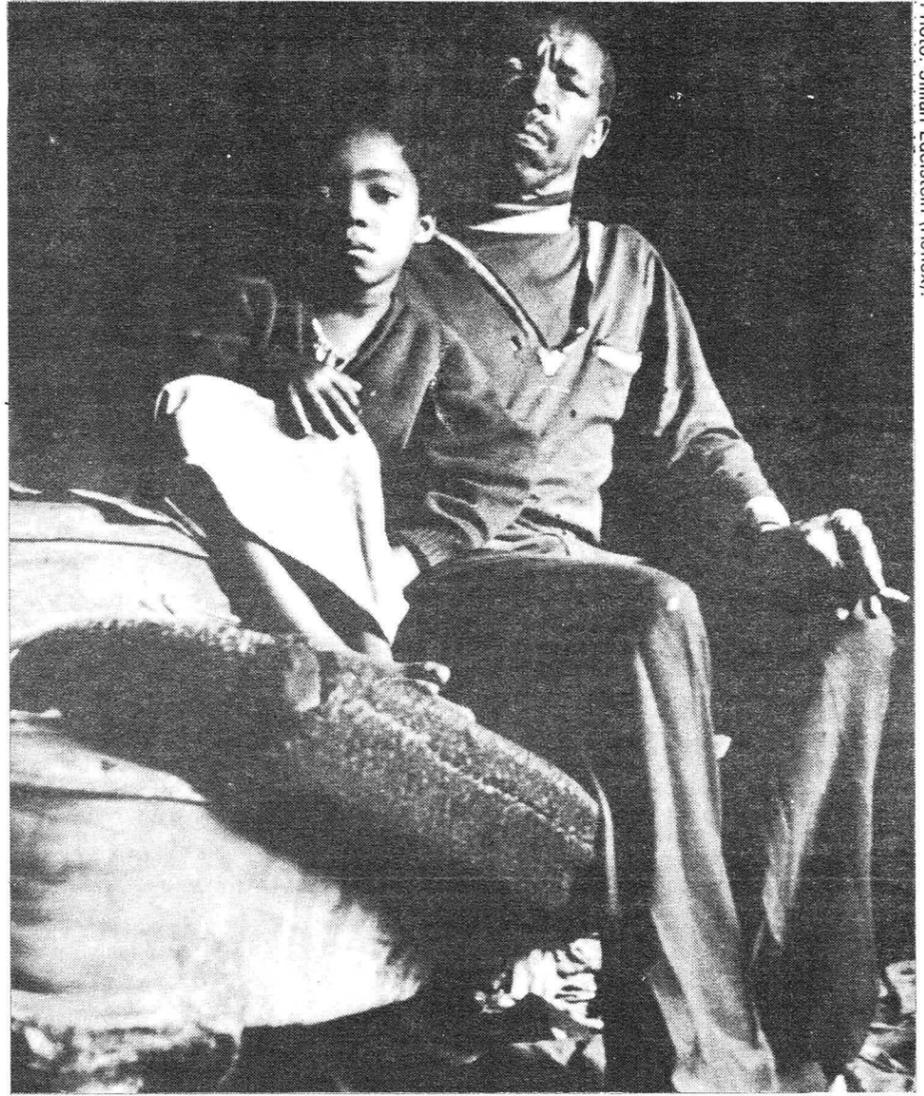


Photo: Jillian Edelstein (Reflex).

“Nothing, nothing, nothing” for the working people who have produced South Africa's fabulous wealth—except the struggle for power.

Chemie, the union recognised at the German parent company.

Under this pressure, Transvaal Alloys has only agreed to reemploy workers as vacancies arise. For union organiser **Frank Bushielo** this is not enough:

“They (the workers) just desperately want to go back to Transvaal Alloys because they believe they have been in that place for a long time and have made it grow from

scratch.”

Three years of unemployment have taken their toll. Five of the workers, weakened by starvation, have died, leaving their families in desperate situations.

A mother tells: “Life after my son died was all about hunger. We think had he not been fired he would still be alive. Because he was unemployed there was no money to feed him properly and take him to hospital when he was ill.”

A wife: “I think starvation played a role in my husband's death. When he was sick he would yearn for food, but

there was no food. I survive by asking my sisters and brothers for food. They give me enough to cook for a day. That's my life.”

A second woman, **Ngwanatheko Malekane**:

“My husband got his sickness at work. The dust at work affected his lungs, and when he came home he used to complain.

“There is no money here. This week the women of this village brought me food. We suffer a lot. There is absolutely nothing here, nothing nothing nothing.”

From a correspondent in South Africa

Women's harsh oppression in Iran

I MET a young peasant woman who had twins of two years old, a boy and a girl. Her husband had decided to take a new wife, but couldn't afford to keep two, so he divorced the first one.

The authorities told her to give the son to the father, and keep the daughter until she was seven years old. The woman's parents were dead. She had no place to go and no income.

There are no democratic rights in Iran. It is a harsh life under the Islamic Republic, and doubly harsh as a woman and a mother.

Khomeiny's regime, as soon as it consolidated its power, started to attack women and introduced a whole series of backward Islamic laws. To give some examples:

1 Women have to cover their whole body, except face and hands, from all men except their husband, brother or father. This is called *Hejab*.

2 Abortion and sterilisation are illegal.

3 Women cannot apply for a divorce, even if the husband leaves the family.

4 A man can marry four women permanently, and have an unlimited number of

By an Iranian correspondent

“temporary” marriages (the Islamic ‘solution’ to prostitution).

5 A man can divorce his wife any time he wishes.

6 A woman cannot keep her children after being divorced, except for boys under two and girls under seven. When they reach this age, they must be handed to the father.

7 A woman cannot act as a judge and cannot give individual evidence in court.

Two women must give evidence together to give it the same weight as a man's.

8 When a husband dies, the wife has no right to decide the fate of the children or property. The dead man's closest male relation has this right.

9 A woman cannot travel without the permission of her husband or father, unless she is widowed or divorced.

10 A girl is considered an



Women's protest in Iran before Khomeiny's vicious clampdown.

adult at nine. She can then be married, or imprisoned or killed for going against the Islamic constitution. The same age for boys is 15.

These laws have resulted in extreme misery, especially for the working people.

The *Hejab* law has been used to sack a lot of women from their jobs. The regime has made it so difficult for women to work that many have left their jobs. One of its aims was to close nurseries down, despite the fact that these were in the private sector.

With the war has come

unemployment and inflation. Half the factories in Iran have closed, the other half are working at 30-40 per cent capacity. This has made women more dependent on their husbands.

In many cases ex-husbands pay no maintenance for their children. Using the law against the mother they try to turn her into a free baby-sitter, threatening otherwise to take the children away.

A genuine Marxist leadership, rooted in the working class, could win droves of Iranian women to the ideas of socialism by showing that in a democratic workers' state they will enjoy equal rights and respect, and participate freely in building a healthy society. Even some middle-class and bourgeois women could be won towards socialism with such a programme.

Our job as socialists is to reach the mass of working-class and peasant women, to rebuild the courage and energy which has been consumed in the revolution and the war, and direct this to the struggle for socialism.

GM strike

HUNDREDS OF strikers at General Motors in Port Elizabeth continue to defy management's strong-arm methods for driving them back to work.

GM is “disinvesting”—selling out to local capitalists. Workers suspect that this will mean massive lay-offs.

Their unions (National Automobile and Allied Workers Union, Metal and Allied Workers Union and Motor Industry Combined Workers Union) have demanded severance pay and repayment of pension contributions. GM refused, and also refused to guarantee workers their full earnings next year.

Despite the regime's Emergency powers and soaring unemployment, the workers came out solidly and occupied two plants until forced out by the police. 567 were sacked. Significantly, white workers have supported the black workers' stand.

The workers have also demanded union representatives on the new company's board, reflecting the instinctive drive of the working class to win control of the means of production. Although a minority of worker-directors would be inadequate, it is the first time this has been demanded in South Africa, and marks an important step forward in the development of a working-class programme.

To fight scabbing, the unions have called for street committees in the townships. Clearly drawing on the lessons of the past period, the 13-day strike has again shown the undefeated militancy of the black workers movement.

The fight to support the victimised workers is now on. Messages to: NAAWU, 9-12 Lotus Building, Cottrell Street, Port Elizabeth 6001, South Africa.

Political statement at concert

Dear Comrades,

I went to see a concert by Big Audio Dynamite. The lead guitarist and singer, Mick Jones (ex-Clash) has always been a musical hero of mine and I was thoroughly enjoying the concert when something special happened.

Between two songs he proclaimed "You don't have to listen to me 'cos I'm just a cockney git, but support Derek Hatton!"

I don't think anyone expected a statement

like this in the middle of a rock concert. I yelled "Yes!" and was immediately followed by around 500 identical cries. I really enjoyed the show but this made it a real night to be remembered. Good luck Big Audio Dynamite I hope to see you in the charts again soon.

Yours fraternally
Graham Smillie
Liverpool

Tory vandals pass the buck

Dear Comrades,

Chesterfield Tories have the nerve to accuse us of vandalism! At a council meeting last week Tory councillor Mrs Gloria Havenhand complained: "Posters are put up every week to keep people up to date with what *Militant* is doing. What do tourists think—they say they won't come back." Her right wing Labour colleague, Mrs Sargeant said: "It makes my blood boil... an example should be made of the culprits."

With all the results of

Tory government round here, who are we to blame? Not only have thousands of jobs gone in local factories and pits, but dozens of shops around the town centre have gone out of business, leaving empty shop windows.

And what about the filth of local scab contract "cleaners" at Scarsdale Hospital (buy one cockroach, get one free?)

It's the Tories who want pasting!

Yours fraternally
Bill Posters
Chesterfield

Penniless

Dear Comrades,

In the eighth week of term many students were faced with the problem of not having received their grants.

Not only did this situation affect their studies but rendered them unable to purchase books, stationery or to be able to travel to college. They faced mounting debts and no income for food and rent.

Although Strathclyde Regional Council had promised to take up this issue, they made no provisions to resolve the situation.

Our "Labour controlled" Regional Council have ignored the problems behind this issue, rate-capping and cuts in staffing levels, imposed by Tory policies.

It is time that this council accepts and reveals the true reasons behind this issue and gets prepared to take up and fight the Tory government to resolve the issue once and for all.

Yours fraternally
Rosemary Ankers
Glasgow



'Dependent' on bosses

Dear Comrades,

The actions of the UDM leadership in Mansfield, in attempting to stand an "independent Labour" candidate at the next general election against the official candidate, Alan Meale, highlight clearly what type of role Lynk and co want the UDM to have.

The right wing including the outgoing Mr Don Concanon who has publicly stated he won't be supporting Meale, have done next to nothing to support miners fighting for their jobs.

Labour movement activists must seize this opportunity to explain patiently to miners currently in the UDM that they are being used as a tool for the Tories and their capitalist friends. Notts miners belong in the NUM, fighting for a Labour government to be elected on socialist policies.

Yours fraternally
Dave Gorton
Peckham



NUPE banner on the Anti-apartheid march in June 1986.

A LETTER TO BOTHA (on behalf of Moses Mayekiso and all comrades detained under the State of Emergency)

You may be thousands of miles from here and you may claim the right to silence those who speak but what respect has truth for your prisons?

You may bar all the windows and lock all the doors

to keep it in but truth can't be detained.

Listen to the sound that's rising from every corner of the world the sound of millions speaking with one voice:

"The blood you spill is workers' blood—Our blood—and when you raise your hand against my brother you threaten me.

When you strike my brother I share his pain. When you defile my sister You are defiling me.

And I am free."

So listen to the voice of the workers listen to the sound of the truth being told listen... and learn to be afraid
Andrea Capstick
Skipton

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.

○ **Sharing the House with Mother.** Static Nation Tour. November: Tue 25—Horsham Champagne's. Thur 27—Rugby The Blitz. Fri 28—Birmingham The Red Lion. Sat 29—Oldham The Boundary.

Militant Meetings

□ **Daisy Rawling Memorial Meeting** Manors Social Club, Warswick St, Newcastle on Tyne, Saturday 29 November 1.30pm Speakers include Ted Grant, Jane Harker.

□ **Militant Readers' Meeting** Thursday 20 November 8pm, Whitehawk Youth Centre, Whitehawk Road, Brighton, Peter Taaffe, Cllr Jackie Robson, Kevin Williams (LPYS).

□ **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. Mid-day and evening meals provided, crèche organised. Social in the evening. Further details contact: Marion Adkins, Sheffield (0742) 330855.

○ **Militant enamel Red Flag badges.** £1 available from: Gwyneth Cullen, Wakefield: 375022.

○ **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.

○ **Militant Calendar 1987.** Commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Russian Revolution. Cost only £1. Orders of 10 or more half price. Available from *Militant* Fighting Fund Department, 3/13 Hepscoth Rd, London E9 5HB.

○ **Chile Socialist Defence Campaign Disco,** Florence Nightingale Pub, Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 (Tube, BR, Waterloo) Saturday 29 November 7.30 til midnight 50p unwaged £1.00 waged.

□ **Hull Militant public meeting** "The socialist alternative to the Anglo-Irish agreement". Speaker Richard Venton (ex-peeled Liverpool LP member and Irish socialist) Thursday 4 December 7.30pm. Hull Trades and Labour Club, Beverley Road.

□ **Militant Readers' Meeting** Thursday 20 November 12.30pm, Students Union Sussex University, Peter Taaffe.

□ **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.

Building council houses

Dear Comrades,

What do the following councils have in common? Newcastle, Bristol, Cardiff, Hull, Reading, Watford, Wolverhampton and Derby.

According to statistics published by the Department of the Environment in July 1986 no new council home building was started during the whole of 1985 by any of those councils.

The same publication shows Liverpool Council to have started 1,367 council homes during 1985. Over three times as many as the second placed council. It is really sickening then that the Labour Party leadership should attack Liverpool's Labour Group yet keep quiet about the derisory records of many other Labour Groups illustrated in the Department's publication.

Yours fraternally
Andrew Dinkenor
Bournemouth

Dear Comrades,

My mother brought home from church a copy of the *Catholic Pictorial* that had an article about Knowsley North by-election on the front page. Not surprisingly this concentrated its attention on the Liberal candidate Rosemary Cooper.

We are told that god-fearing Rosie "sees the family as 'the essential unit' and looks to encourage Christian life with dignity."!!

That's a laugh coming from a Liberal who has been a councillor in Liverpool for 13 years and part of the Liberal/Tory council which built no council houses for families to live in between 1980 and 1983 when there was a housing waiting list of 22,000 and put up rents 120 per cent in the same period. Those families affected by their policies obviously weren't considered as the "essential unit" were they?

Undoubtedly the families of the 5,000 workers made redundant during the Liberals time in office will find it hard to believe Rosemary when she says she wants to "encourage Christian life with dignity."

The article is slanted in favour of Rosemary Cooper because she is a Catholic which inevitably means support for the Liberal Party. But workers in Knowsley and elsewhere should be warned. A cut is a cut whether it is made by a Catholic, Protestant or any other religious order. Low pay, unemployment and bad housing don't discriminate between religions, the effect is still the same.

Yours fraternally
Michael Morris
Liverpool West Derby
LPYS

Geordies lambast the Tories

Dear Comrades,

Following the 'Jarrow 86' march for jobs, Tyne Tees television's *Nightline* devoted a programme to the issue.

During the show various Tories, including Piers Merchant, were lambasted by the overwhelmingly working class audience for their uncaring attitude towards the unemployed in the Northern Region. Amongst the au-

dience the hatred of the Tories was such that at one stage it looked like Merchant was in physical danger when he called the marchers a disgrace to the region.

The biggest cheer of the night was reserved for calls to get rid of the Tories and getting Labour elected.

Significantly the audience also cheered when one Labour councillor said that

when Labour are elected if they don't deliver the goods and cut unemployment then people would not hesitate to criticise Neil Kinnock as much as they are at present criticising the Tories.

The leaders of the Labour Party should be warned.

Yours fraternally
Andy Walker
Northern Region LPYS

Rip-off

Dear Comrades,

The other morning I received a gas bill for over £40. I found on reading my meter that it should have been less than £20.

British Gas are paying for their advertising campaign to sell us what we already own by sending out ridiculous bills.

If you see Sid, tell him to check his meter before paying his gas bill.

Yours fraternally
Peter Redfarn
Deptford

Careless

Dear Comrades,

A few months ago a Hell's Angel died from brain damage at Feltham police station due to an earlier whack on the head by a police truncheon. The judge ruled last week that no charges would be made against anyone who was responsible because the death was caused due to carelessness, tut, tut.

With the introduction of longer and heavier truncheons, rubber bullets, CS gas and water cannon, comrades must wonder if the judge believes that the police should take more care when using these weapons against the working class.

Yours fraternally
Karl Osborne
Brentford and Isleworth
LPYS

Fight Tory privatisation law

THE IMPOSITION of competitive tendering on councils is a major challenge to the public service trade unions. According to Patrick Wintour and Geoff Andrews in *The Guardian* last Thursday 500,000 jobs are affected by the prospect of private contractors taking over their work.

The government, they explain, is attempting to overcome the reluctance of even its own councillors into pushing ahead with privatisation of a wider range of council services.

The Conservative-controlled Association of District Councils is quoted: "fragmentation of existing pooled labour organisations through contracting out services will inhibit a co-ordinated approach and limit the flexibility to respond to seasonal changes or emergencies."

Privatisation of the most profitable service, refuse collection and street sweeping, has petered out. So all councils will be obliged by law to open their services

HACKNEY COUNCILLOR Lynne Faulkes explains the implications of the new privatisation threat at a local level and argues the need for a sense of urgency in mounting a counter-campaign.

THE QUEEN'S speech confirmed the Tories' intention to make an even more devastating attack on jobs and services provided by local authorities, by a vast extension of privatisation. Already we have seen Ridley telling councils not to pay more than they can 'afford' and to cut pay and shed jobs as necessary.

After the fiasco of the last two years over ratecapping, there is a suspicion that the threats this time are just empty scaremongering. But the proposals being put forward could have appalling consequences for everyone—manual workers, officers and those who rely on council services.

The main new areas to be hit will be catering, cleaning, vehicle maintenance, parks, sports centres, computing, architects, transport and refuse disposal. Construction and refuse collection are already affected.

To make it even easier for private firms to cream off the most lucrative parts and leave councils the bits no one wants, the government is expected to bring in measures making it possible for firms to specify which particular job they want, and by outlawing contract compliance, make it easy for them to win the tender.

Contract compliance is one strategy many councils and unions are depending on. It is vital that as many safeguards as possible are built into contracts to ensure work is of good quality, and union rights and conditions of pay, health and safety, training, etc are rigorously adhered to.

This means there must be proper monitoring by councils and unions, both of contracts and of the Select List of tenderers. Particularly in building, there is growing use of lump labour and part-time workers on sub-contracts.

Contract compliance units are essential: to ensure all contractors compete on 'fair' terms (instead of DLOs' standards being cut to win tenders); to monitor and identify work on site; to convince DLOs that the council is committed to safeguarding their jobs and conditions of work. In turn, the DLOs should then be expected to become competitive and work to standard.

But it's not just future Tory plans that worry council workers. Already we can see councils struggling to meet the stipulations of the Planning and Land Act 1980, which forced many contracts out to tender. In Hackney, DLOs are com-

plaining bitterly of the amount of work being lost, often by default, partly because of the lack of an effective contract compliance unit and partly because the DLOs themselves are not capable of taking on the work if it is offered to them.

To meet this challenge will need a drastic change in the way local councils are run. In Hackney there are suspicion and complaints about the attitude of senior officers. The Assistant Chief Executive reported after an initial meeting on privatisation that he was disturbed to find the majority had no idea what it meant, while the rest felt it was a good thing!

As contracts and tenders are in the hands of officers, no wonder unions are expressing deep concern and suspicion as to whether they are getting a fair deal.

Managers

To combat this, in Liverpool they have totally restructured the DLOs, to make officers an integral part. "If we lose one productive job, we will sack the manager" they've been told. Officers' jobs are seen to be totally dependent on the success of DLOs; they sink or swim together. They have also reduced overheads through the reorganisation—DLOs are no longer responsible for central personnel, apprentices, accounts etc—these have all been centralised.

They have also centralised stores and vehicle licensing. The DLOs no longer own their fleet, but lease from the council. All this has been backed up with a total commitment to decent wages and conditions. This is a vitally important way of winning the trust and confidence of the workforce.

The Housing and Planning Bill currently going through the Lords, will make it easy to sell off council estates and bring in 'legal management' and 'co-operatives' to run them.

For some tenants, frustrated by long waits for repairs and transfers, this might at first sight seem attractive. As with the 'right to buy', those in good quality property might feel they're on to a good thing, but the rest are left with the headaches of repairs and maintenance.

Council stock would be even more depleted, without solving any of the fundamental problems. Already we can see strings being attached to government grants—through project control and in various other

to private tenders. Big business reckons that street cleaning, refuse collection and office and school classroom cleaning alone can bring them £1 billion.

The most startling fact highlighted in the article is that despite Tory rhetoric about the free market and competition being the most efficient method of using resources, in fact this sector is highly monopolised.

Most of the famous privatising contractors are subsidiaries of two major cleaning and refuse groups: "BET and Hawley have won 62 per cent of local government refuse and street cleaning contracts and 53 per cent of NHS domestic cleaning contracts."

The privatising firms are revealed to have set a common 'minimum' wage, the same as the bottom of the NHS Ancillary Workers Whitley Council negotiated rate. In reality they are operating a cartel to make 'savings' and profits out of screwing already low paid workers even harder.



ways. On one Hackney estate, where the council has just demolished two tower blocks, they have been forced to sell off one-third of the land to private developers.

Many councils, like Hackney, face severe financial crisis in the next year or so, which makes the threat of privatisation more dire. Unless they act quickly, no matter how much on paper they're opposed to privatisation, they will end up with no alternative. Already in Hackney we see creeping privatisation, through the number of job vacancies, through bad management, through financial pressures, with tenders going out by default.

The council is already losing credibility. Workers and tenants blame the council for shoddy work done by sub-contractors. So it's vital we build bridges quickly, win the confidence and support necessary for the inevitable fight against the government.

We are rapidly coming to the same position as Liverpool two years ago—we will have no choice, either fight or give in and make drastic cuts. We have heard Sheffield have drawn up a dramatic cuts list already.

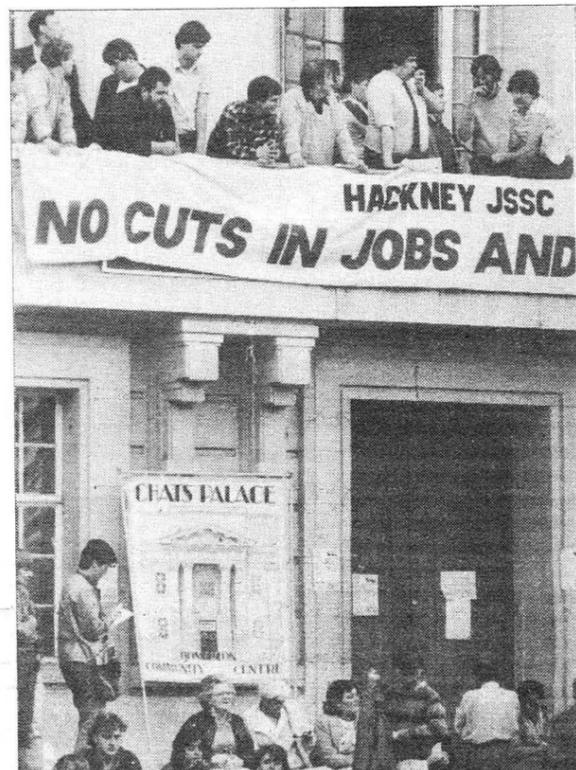
And we have already been warned by Cunningham that a Labour government will not bail out councils looking to them for salvation.

Campaign now

Practical commitment has to be given now. The Labour Group's decision not to allocate any extra resources to the fight against privatisation merely fuels the scepticism. We need reorganisation of the DLOs, and people working full time on the issue, both officers and stewards. It means getting out regular, clear information, detailing what privatisation means, and what council members, unions, tenants, community groups and the general public can do.

There have been comments about 'crying wolf again'. We have had enough warnings from the Tories and there is enough evidence to refute that. This is the opportunity to unite the workforce and win the backing of tenants, and together overcome many other problems.

We cannot put off this battle while we deal with other issues like the financial crisis or the Arden report



(which highlights poor management procedures).

At the moment there's an awful lot of confusion, suspicion and cynicism, producing disputes and a recent occupation of the Town Hall by catering workers. All the

other planned campaigns and major planks of council policy like Area landlord bases, racial harassment and equal opportunities will be lost if we don't win privatisation.

Industrial Reports

Voting underway in civil service election

VOTING started on Monday in the re-run elections for a new general secretary of the Civil and Public Services Association. The Broad Left candidate is John Macreadie, who won the first election.

The Electoral Reform Society completely cleared CPSA activists over right wing allegations of ballot rigging. The right wing leadership of the union, however, having installed the loser as acting general secretary used the opportunity provided by the inquiry to call a new election.

The Broad Left campaign is going well with meetings being held in all major towns and cities. Over thirty CPSA activists attended a Broad Left meeting in Edinburgh to hear John Macreadie. An indication of the growing support for the Broad Left came from a young typist who had originally canvassed for the defeated right wing candidate and now pledged to support John Macreadie. She donated £22 towards his election campaign.

By Gary Stevenson
CPSA Inland Revenue
Section vice-chair,
personal capacity)



Firefighters on march

ON 14 November 1,200 firefighters from all over Britain marched in protest at Strathclyde Regional Council's attempts to cut 138 jobs.

Hundreds of other supporters joined the march and rally, including many Strathclyde Nalgo members.

The Friday before, the firefighters had staged a one-hour strike in a battle which started more than two years ago when Strathclyde regional council raised the idea of reducing staffing levels.

They proposed that appliances attending fires should be staffed at the national levels of 5, 4 and 2 against the Strathclyde level of 5, 5 and 3.

The national standards were set 30 years ago. Fires and firefighting have become more hazardous and complex since.

All 38 fire stations were shut. Strathclyde, once described as "the tinder-box of Western

Europe" was left without fire cover. As one striking firefighter said: "What in indictment of a Labour council. All because they want to cut jobs."

Despite other savings being proposed by the FBU, Strathclyde regional council seem to want cuts, offering as a compromise just a hundred job losses as opposed to the national demand for 138.

At the rally Ken Cameron made it clear that Strathclyde's cuts would be fought: "If they come for one they come for us all." He raised the possibility of a national fight to stop job losses in the fire service.

He quoted the council leader Charles Gray's contemptuous remarks after the breakdown of talks: "When you come back on your knees it will be 208 jobs we're not after 138."

Regional councillor Margaret Dick promised to fight the cuts and the threatened use of troops

to break the FBU's stand. She called on FBU members to join the Labour Party to stop Labour councillors doing the Tories' dirty work.

Within half an hour of the lobby the council and the FBU agreed to mediation. But firefighters at the rally made it clear that there would be no compromise.

Every job must be saved; and many firefighters spoke of the need to make national the current separate battles on jobs taking place throughout the country.

The local and national leadership of the FBU must maintain opposition to cuts and job losses throughout the mediation and prepare firefighters in Strathclyde and nationally for more decisive action should mediation fail.

By Ronnie Stevenson

Birmingham Borderway rally success but company to liquidate

NEARLY 200 workers and trade unionists attended the Borderway dispute rally organised in support of striking workers. It has since been announced that the company is to go into voluntary liquidation.

Borderway employees have been on strike for three months in a dispute over union recognition. After tolerating years of sweat shop conditions and money which has only just risen to £1.40 per hour, the workers decided to join the Metal Mechanics section of Tass.

The response from the boss was swift. He immediately sacked two instrumental workers. The rest went out on strike in support of their colleagues. The company has relied on scab labour to keep it ticking over.

The rally was enormous boost for a small group of strikers who in three months have learned that joining a



union in Tory Britain doesn't come cheap.

Speakers at the rally included Derek Robinson, the ex-Longbridge convenor and a representative from the Hanger strikers who are currently also in dispute (see

Militant 817).

Local Young Socialists have collected over £200 towards the strike fund. All donations and offers of support should be made to: Tass (Metal Mechanics) 70 Lionel Street, Birmingham B1.

Scottish pit strategy

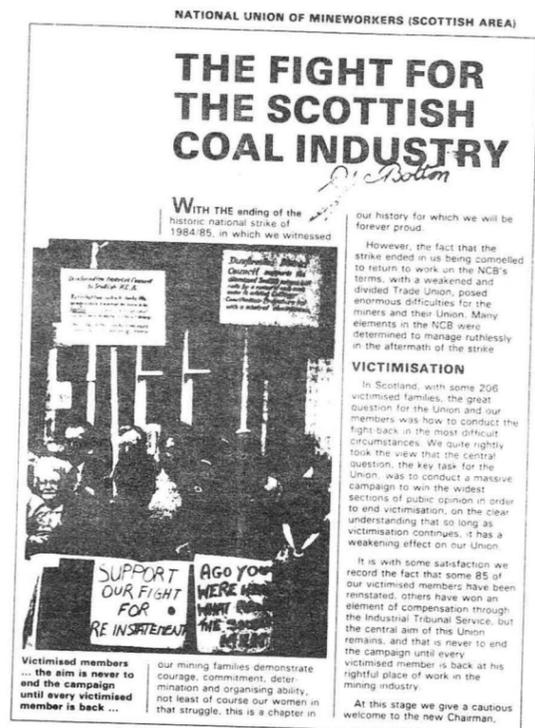
A FOUR-PAGE document entitled *The Fight for the Scottish Coal Industry* has been circulated recently by the NUM in Scotland. Each copy is stamped with the signature of NUM Area Vice-President and Communist Party Chairman, George Bolton. It is a crude attempt to gain popularity for the CP candidate in the forthcoming election to replace retiring Scottish President, Mick M'Gahey.

Despite the title, the broadsheet makes no reference whatsoever to any kind of fight. Instead, "the need to form all possible alliances, find all the allies we can..." is advocated as the way forward. Public opinion is the weapon to be wielded against the most brazen, reactionary, heartless government this century!

To justify this strategy, Bolton points to the 'breakthrough' in the campaign to win reinstatement for the victimised miners. Of 206 victimised miners in the Area, a mere 85 have been taken back due to the supposed 'wide ranging' campaign 'encompassing virtually every strand of political and democratic opinion... leaving the NCB Scottish Area in a position of severe isolation.'

The NCB's loneliness has not prevented them from slashing over 1800 jobs—almost one third of the workforce—in recent months.

But even this devastating attack on the industry is heralded as a tremendous step forward. Attempting to adopt a 'positive attitude' to the job losses, Bolton argues that the closure of Killoch is not bad news for Ayreshire miners because the smaller Barony Colliery is to remain open. Nor should Lothian miners despair at the hundreds of jobs lost at Monktonhall and Bilston Glen because now the two



may be linked up at some point in the future.

Incredibly, he argues that there is still a possibility of a new shaft being sunk at Musselburgh creating a super-pit complex in the Lothians. However, Cockeridge power station—the market for Monktonhall coal—is to be closed once and for all the Torness Nuclear Power Station comes on stream in the very near future.

Fanciful

Bolton's fanciful stories and dreams of the good intentions of the Coal Board will be believed by no one. It is ludicrous to suggest that the NCB will invest in the Scottish coalfield in order to mine coal that, in the context of capitalism, they cannot sell. Already, the SSEB are exporting excess electricity to England. They will have no need for a new power station in Fife, nor on the Solway

Firth, nor at Cockeridge as long as Torness remain a blot on the landscape.

Bolton tells of a dialogue existing now between the NCB and NUM Scottish Area. But it is a one-way dialogue. And George Bolton is acting like the proverbial 'nodding-head puppy' people have in the back of their cars. In fact, this broadsheet itself could have been written, at least in part, by the NCB themselves.

Nevertheless, Bolton remains the only figure in the race for Scottish miners and the NUM generally. An alternative rank and file candidate must be found—someone who will lead by example and who will lead courageously. Only a determined stand can save the Scottish coal industry from destruction.

By Chris Herriot
(Sacked, Monktonhall miner)

Hull council union leader victimised

HULL LABOUR Council are attempting to sack Alan Shadforth, the secretary of Hull Council Joint Shop Stewards C'ttee.

The pressure of Tory cuts has led Hull's right wing council leaders into confrontation, not with the government, but with their own workers.

First the busmen were involved in a long dispute over holiday pay, leading into another strike against the council's imposition of the Transport Act, at the cost of several hundred jobs, lower wages and longer hours.

A previously moderate section of the workforce have been transformed in struggles with the election of new, younger shop stewards, and further industrial action was taken to defend their branch secretary who was victimised by management.

Then last month the dustmen took four weeks all-out strike action against the sacking of one of their members. Again, workers not previously noted for militancy have undergone a process of change over the last few years under the constant pressure of cuts and the management.

These disputes in the local

labour movement have led to a gulf between the city party and the council, but also splits in the previously monolithic Labour group with 13 'rebel' councillors openly supporting the bin-men.

The small right-wing clique controlling the council have acted in an increasingly arbitrary manner as they come under increased attack.

An independent report into the bin-men's strike accused the so-called 'gang of five' of prolonging the dispute, and criticised them for publicising the sacked dustmen's personal disciplinary record and changing the wording of the disciplinary procedures without any consultation.

In all these disputes the recently formed City Council Joint Shop Stewards Committee have played a key role in organising support from other council workers, including three demonstrations of over 1,000 and recently *Militant* supporter Alan Shadforth was elected as the new secretary of this stewards committee.

Acting on a tip-off from "an anonymous informant" the council have suspended Alan for allegedly falsifying his job application form in

1984 by not including a previous criminal offence and short jail sentence. All the details of this, from nearly six years ago, have now been made front page news. If Alan is sacked he will never work again.

These are the actions of a Labour council—so much for *Freedom and Fairness*. The campaign to defend Alan is under way. He has the full backing of the JSSC and mass meetings will be held this week to discuss action.

The Labour group was lobbied on Monday night and there will be a mass lobby on Friday morning when Alan faces his disciplinary hearing. If the right wing go ahead with his sacking industrial action must follow along with a mass campaign into every corner of the local labour movement.

The victimisation must stop. Kevin Whitfield the sacked dustman and Alan Shadforth must be reinstated. The Labour council must stop attacking its own workers and instead prepare with the trade unions to defend the jobs and services that will be threatened next year by the Tory privatisation plans.

Defeat teachers' pay deal

ON NOVEMBER 15, four of the six teachers unions represented at ACAS signed a draft deal on pay and conditions.

Two unions, the NAS/UWT and NAHT (head teachers) refused to sign—the former with a view to membership growth rather than from any coherent strategy while the heads hoped for the additional money from a more hierarchical structure proposed by Baker.

The NUT executive, by 31 to 6 (with Regan, Jones, Purford, Murch, Roberts and Miller voting against) ratified the deal. Most argued it was the only way to stop Baker imposing a worse deal. It remains to be seen what Baker will do.

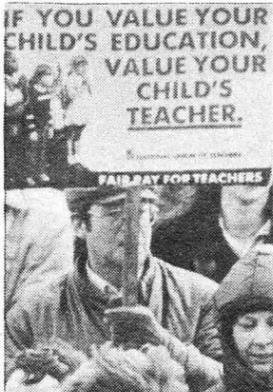
But such a lousy deal gives Baker virtually everything he wanted in the first place—while ignoring "conference policy".

On duties, they have conceded three key issues that Baker (and Joseph before him) always demanded—a binding contract. 13 of the 19, a Baker's dozen, are written in, including appraisal. The NUT leaders claim that appraisal is not formally linked to pay, but it is part of the new package of duties, assessed an annual basis. The result will be equally damaging.

Even more fundamentally, the agreement says each teacher will get a "job description" specifying his or her particular responsibilities. The job description shall be consistent with the contractual duties laid down in this agreement. The job description should be reviewed annually, and more frequently "if circumstances so require and where necessary amended..." ie the teacher's job description can be changed whenever the head sees fit.

On working time there has been conceded (on top of the 28½ hours teaching and supervisory time) an additional four hours a week to carry out other duties and a commitment to unspecified hours of work outside this to complete the balance of duties. The working year is

now increased to 195 days. Even the 33 maximum class size (other than in emergencies!) may be extended "to allow for unplanned additions to the school roll during the school year..." Anyway, this limit is only "subject to the availability of sufficient suitably qualified teachers..."



On cover the agreement states that "every teacher has a responsibility to cover for the absence of colleagues". The unions have negotiated superficially a very divisive agreement. In secondary schools, all cover, planned or unforeseen, for the first two days will be done internally (ie 80 per cent of all cover in secondaries) whereas in primary, cover is to be done "on the first day only for unforeseen absences."

But the deal then makes even this success meaningless "the implementation of these arrangements is dependent on the availability of teachers in sufficient numbers and with suitable qualifications" and "when a supply teacher cannot be obtained in accordance with these

arrangements, cover will be provided by a teacher within school when required by the head teacher".

To round off a 'good week's work' at Nottingham and ACAS a two-year entry grade had also been conceded, a divisive cheap labour scheme. But new teachers will be heartened to hear that the deal recognises "the need for adequate induction and support..." So new teachers will thus only be expected to teach 90 per cent of the full timetable in the first year and 100 per cent in the second year!

Even on pay the salary settlement is hopelessly inadequate for ordinary classroom teachers. The restoration of Houghton pay level would require more than £16,000 at the top of Scale One now. It will take until 1996 to reach just over £15,000—and there is no guarantee what the inflation levels will be in the meantime!

Whatever Baker does, the wholesale abandonment of union policy, and of everything NUT members have fought for over the past two years, will be fiercely resisted if the deal is fully explained—and exposed.

An emergency meeting of local associations must be held to mandate delegates to vote against at the special salaries conference on 29 November. A massive campaign to fight for rejection must be fought for within the union. Already local associations are meeting and rejecting the deal.

On Monday night Lewisham association, not the stronghold of the left, held an emergency meeting of over 100 members and a motion condemning the deal was overwhelmingly passed. This is June Fisher's home base.

The union must reassert conference policy and fight for a restoration of Houghton pay levels and no trade-offs in pay and conditions. A strategy of escalating action linking with the EIS in Scotland must be put forward. This sell-out must be defeated.

Industrial Reports

Step up action call as printer jailed

AS ONE more worker was jailed last week (Friday) for defending his right to a job the call went out for action to widen the dispute at Wapping.

Printer Bob Sheffield was sent down for nine months on Friday by the courts that have passed judgement so often against the 6,000 workers sacked in January, in favour of the Wapping liar, Rupert Murdoch.

The strikers have launched an appeal for Bob—and donations should be sent to "Doughty Street Distress Fund", c/o John Bream, 88 Beverley Avenue, Sidcup, Kent OA16 8HE.

But at the NGA's weekly meeting of the sacked print workers, who made Murdoch over £50 million in the year before he dumped them on the scrapheap, a strong appeal went out to union leaders to widen the dispute.

The sacked workers called again for a massive meeting of all those involved in the dispute—the NGA, Sogat, AEU and NUJ, to plan a strategy to force Murdoch to negotiate.

The stumbling block is the union's leadership, particularly Sogat. Brenda Dean, Sogat general secretary wants to link the meeting with a mass lobby of parliament. So a date for this annual meeting is proving difficult to organise.

But the leadership also fears the demands for wider action that would be demanded at such a mass meeting. They have doubts about their ability to control the forces calling for immediate escalation of picketing,

active action on the boycott of Murdoch's newspapers, and action against the scabs.

For those who have spent ten months on the picket lines and endured the "hospitality" of Murdoch's private army in the police, the courts, ACAS—the fine details of whether to picket the Commons are irrelevant.

They remain solidly behind the battle for jobs, union recognition and fair pay-offs for those not wanting jobs at Wapping. They despise the yellow streak shown by TUC general secretary Norman "Banana Belly" Willis and the right wing Labour leadership. They want a fighting leadership who will take the dispute across the country.

As one printworker said at a meeting on Monday: "It's beyond the realm of my belief that someone like him can be general secretary at a time when we need someone who will support us."

The appeal was greeted with approval by NGA general secretary Tony Dubbins, who demanded action against the EETPU on the basis of conclusive evidence in a recent book on the connivance of that union in Murdoch's disgraceful strategy for smashing the print unions.

Dubbins called for the TUC to accept the democratic decision of Murdoch's sacked printworkers twice to reject compensation offers. "Democracy is a two-way thing and we expect the TUC to implement this decision.

And Dubbins' members will be looking for stronger action

from their leadership to underline the commitment that the overwhelming majority of them have made to continuing the fight at Wapping.

The print workers have been given a boost by the belated TGWU action against scabbing drivers. Some 15 of them face expulsion from the union after lengthy bureaucratic delays. More expulsions are essential not only of drivers but also of the journalists.

Most NUJ members at Wapping have already decided to leave the union by lapsing their subscriptions. There is no defence for them and to preserve the unity of those members struggling in the provinces, magazines and other parts of the trade, the scabs must be expelled.

A new campaign strategy is about to be launched nationally to widen the boycott of Murdoch's titles at the same time as picketing, marches and demonstrations are being stepped up at key points in the dispute.

Call a mass meeting of all workers in the dispute!

Support of the boycott of Murdoch titles!

Join the marches, pickets and demonstrations!

Print union leaders are due to meet the TUC on Monday (24 November) and Wednesday (26) at TUC headquarters (1.30pm)—a massive demonstration of support for the Wapping struggle is needed to impress on Willis and his placemen the demand for action.

In Brief... In Brief... In Brief

300 WORKERS who make artificial limbs at JE Hangers in Roehampton, West London are still fighting on after nine weeks.

Patients were not informed and some have had to travel 160 miles to get limbs altered or repaired and many new patients are not getting the limbs they are waiting for.

Management has said little except to float the idea of taking 80 workers back on unacceptable terms. The position of the workers is, one back—300 back.

The parent company is BTR who are experienced union bashers in South Africa. They are now trying it here with workers who have given a lifetime of loyal service. Edwina Currie has ignored two letters from the trade unions.

The Hangers' workers supported the local LPYS branches in joining the round London Youth March for Jobs. Now the LPYS are organising street collections for Hangers.

Over £100 was collected in Putney on Saturday, this should be spread London wide. Hangers Support Groups need to be set up to ensure financial and moral support from the wider labour movement.

By Dave Gartrell
(Battersea Labour Party)

COVENTRY BUS drivers have gone back to work after successfully striking to defend their working conditions but in Warwick and Leamington a separate dispute is developing over deregulation.

The Coventry bus drivers employed by WMPT struck for two weeks against new rosters which were to bring in 5½ hour shifts without breaks.

The first compromise which union leaders negotiated was rejected five to one and management were forced to concede in the face of the determined and 'solid' picket line—some drivers spoke of being prepared to stay out for years!



JE Hanger picket.

The drivers in South Warwickshire working for Midland Red have a good example to follow in their dispute.

BRITISH COAL are constantly stressing the need to break even, everything has to be 'economic', but recent events at Deane Valley colliery near Barnsley, show clearly how inept the management are.

For many years Deane Valley was a one-face pit. However, following the strike, the manpower was built up and a second face was developed. At the time the NUM branch warned management that Deane Valley could not cope with two faces. These warnings were ignored.

It proved impossible to adequately supply two faces and the facilities for transporting coal out of the pit were inadequate. Thus management ineptitude has resulted in a U-turn.

The area director now wants Deane Valley to return to production from one face only and is calling for 180 men to volunteer to transfer to other collieries.

These events show clearly that

the management have wasted money at Deane Valley as well as disrupting the lives of many miners.

AT THE Nupe Merseyside Ambulance AGM the left were in a large majority on all votes taken. This move reflects the dissatisfaction with the old officers of the branch who have not provided an adequate lead on a whole range of issues, including the pay deal and the local negotiations over shifts.

When it came to the conference delegate election the old branch secretary gave as his reasons for going to the conference that it was "good fun". The left, who won the position overwhelmingly, made it clear it wanted to go to conference to support the policies of the branch in the conference.

The new leadership will be deadly serious in representing the members in the battles ahead.

By a Merseyside Ambulanceman

Militant

Police accountability—page 7
 Knowsley by-election—page 3
 Privatisation feature—page 13

Raving right slash local services

TORY LEADERS, Tebbit and Ridley, have launched a malicious attack on left Labour councils including Liverpool, dubbing them the "loony left". "The stink emanating from the Labour Town Halls... an attack on everything local government has ever stood for," raves Ridley.

Militant disagrees with some of the policies that have been pursued by councils like Brent, Lambeth etc. But the Tories' smears about 'extremism' are merely a smokescreen for their butchering of local services. It is the beginning of what will be a dirty general election campaign.

Yet it is these "raving rights" who have savaged local council services. Since 1979 the Tories have stolen £17,455 million from local government.

They have forced councils to sell off thousands of homes, while preventing new ones from being built, while the queues of homeless get longer and longer. They introduced ratecapping to force councils in the inner cities to make cuts in desperately needed services.

Now in the Queen's speech they have announced the "sale of the century"—compelling local councils to put out to tender, and they hope privatise, refuse collection, street cleaning, vehicle maintenance, school meals etc.

Councils may be required to show a five per cent return on services they perform themselves. ILEA predicts that to achieve that for school meals, would require the price of a dinner to rise from 35p to £1.40.

Workers already carrying out these services will be forced through the "tendering" procedure to compete for their own jobs. Experience of privatisation in the Health Service has shown that it does not matter whether the services that are privatised are done by coun-

cil workers or by private contractors—the end result is the same—cuts in wages, cuts in staff levels and increases in the hours worked, and the collapse of the services themselves.

The government is pushing ahead with these measures despite the fact that many (mostly Tory) councils who have attempted to privatise services have had to sack contractors. Wandsworth sacked contractors who cut costs so much to win the tenders that they could not do the job. Gloucester City Council had to sack Initial Cleansing Services and Amalgamated Cleansing Services and give the work they were doing back to council staff. Initial have also been sacked from a contract to catch rats by Shepway District Council.

Fat profits

Firms like these are waiting in the wings to get their hands on council services, and the fat profits they will make out of privatisation in the Tories' promised bonanza.

The Tories are engaged in all out war against local authorities. Their picking out of left wing Labour councils is an attempt to justify it.

But shamefully they have been able to take their cue from the Labour leaders. Neil Kinnock refused his support to Liverpool in its fight to defend jobs and services from the Tory onslaught. Instead he expelled them from the Labour Party.

Even now instead of meeting Tebbit and Ridley's slanders head on, Labour local government spokesman, Jack Cunningham, apologises: these left wing councillors are on-



Liverpool council's building programme in action.

ly "about 0.1 of one per cent" of Labour's local representatives.

As Tony Mulhearn at the *Militant* Rally said of Neil Kinnock: "Let's hope you are as tough with the ruling class as you have been with Liverpool." The Labour leaders must commit themselves now to overturn all the Tories' privatisation plans when returned to government. They must allow local councils all the funds they require to improve local services. A Party report has just calculated that to evade Tory cuts, councils have run up £2 billions worth of deferred purchase debts. The debt repayment will shortly jeopardise these councils' current spending plans. But instead of firm pledges, the report is already questioning whether a Labour government can bale them out.

Right now the Labour leaders should give full backing to Labour councils who stand up to the Thatcher barrage.

Stop press

KNOWSLEY DISTRICT Labour Party, which is dominated by right-wing delegates from Knowsley South, at its last meeting approved rent and rate increases combined with cuts for 1987/88, and decided to vet the panel of candidates for local elections so as to exclude "members of *Militant* or those who support *Militant*."

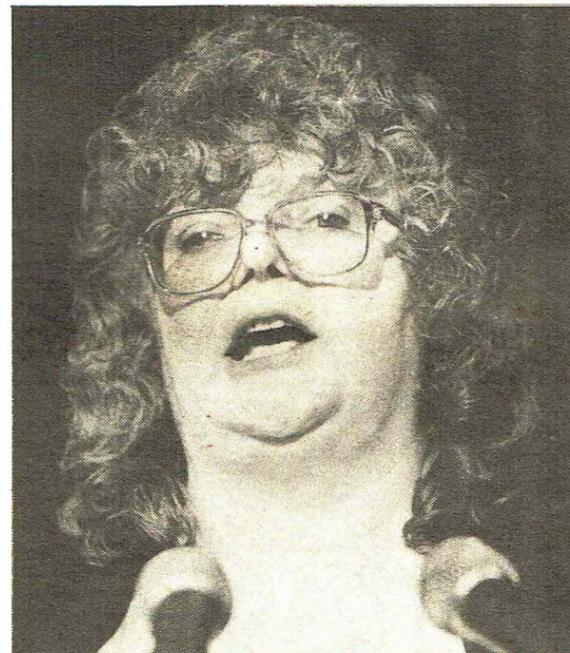
Council officers have been instructed to report back on how to implement cuts of £6 million. This will be combined with rate increases of 15 per cent and a rent increase of up to £3 a week.

Knowsley North delegates moved the option of no cuts and no rent and rate increases, but this was voted down.

TRADE UNIONISTS for Democracy in Knowsley North is a group of rank and file trade union delegates to the CLP, fighting to raise funds for the legal costs incurred in the struggle for the right of a party to choose their own candidate.

Send donations to: Mrs I Rowe, 12 Linslade Crescent, Northwood, Kirkby, Liverpool. Cheques payable to *Trade Unionists for Democracy in Knowsley North*.

Macreadie must win



Doreen Purvis speaking at the Rally. (See page 14 on CPSA).

DOREEN PURVIS, national vice-president of the biggest civil service union CPSA told last week's *Militant* rally: "The right wing will not succeed. John Macreadie will win again."

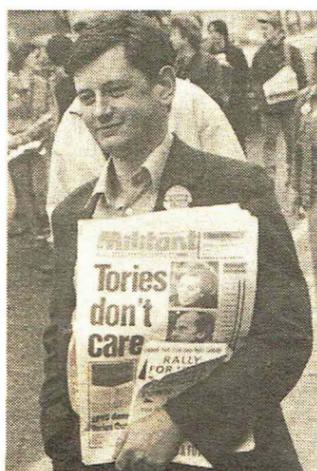
She referred to press reports about her candidature for Presidency of the union being *Militant's* "gentle touch". "If you think I'm a gentle touch ask Alistair Graham or DHSS management. I and other women are supported by the Broad Left on our record and ability".

She finished by appealing to all union activists. "I am not just talking about my union—if the Broad Left can do it in the CPSA you can do the same in yours. Get involved so you can say to your children and grandchildren—"I was part of that victory".

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