

Militant

Solidarity price £1

The Marxist Paper for Labour and Youth 30p

ISSUE 843 17 April 1987

**LPYS conference
Militant meeting**
"Defeat the Tories—For a
socialist Labour government"
Speakers include: Ted Grant,
Derek Hatton
Saturday 18 April, 7.15pm.
Norbreck Castle Hotel, Queen's Parade,
Blackpool.
Tickets £2.00 (including coach and disco)

Tory share fraud

TO BALANCE the Treasury's books, the Tory Cabinet is committed to selling off £5 billion worth of public assets each year. To balance their own personal bank accounts, backbench Tory MPs have been making multiple purchases of shares in this privatisation bonanza. Now some of them have been caught out.

Tory MP, Keith Best, has finally been forced to stand down at the coming general election. When individual investors were restricted to only 800 shares each in the British Telecom sell-off, Best made six applications, using four different addresses and two different versions of his name, to amass 4,800 shares. This despite solemnly accepting the declaration on each individual application: "No other application has been made on your behalf."

Already ten other multi-applicants have been charged under the 1968 Theft Act.

What would Best demand should be done with a constituent caught making six social security claims, using different addresses and names? They would be lucky to get away with six months' imprisonment. Best could still enjoy another six months in the Commons, drawing his MP's pay, and picking up a fat £9,000 cheque at the end from the retiring MPs' 'redundancy fund.' And of course, he still holds nearly £10,000 of BT shares.

Eric Cockeram, Tory MP for Ludlow, made two separate applications, using

By Jeremy Birch

two different addresses.

But the real mistake of these two MPs was to be found out. For the whole philosophy of Toryism is look after yourself. Make as much as you can, any way you can. Evade taxes, invest abroad and plunder the state for the benefit of the rich!

The entire Tory privatisation programme has been nothing but a legalised swindle.

★ Publicly owned monopolies have been flogged off, creating giant private monopolies, lacking even the pretence of democratic control. They are just a 'license to print money,' for the big shareholders.

★ Thatcher's propaganda about creating a 'share owning democracy', has turned out to be a lie. The small shareholdings have been rapidly gobbled up by big companies. With the privatised Trustee Savings Bank, at first no institution was allowed to buy more than 10,000 shares. Now 3,000 com-

panies hold more than 10,000 and 95 more than 500,000.

★ Shares were deliberately undervalued, giving the Tories and their friends an even bigger windfall. Taking Aerospace, Cable and Wireless, Amersham International, British Ports, Jaguar and Telecom together, their shares were 25 per cent undervalued, amounting to a £1412 million mark down. No wonder there have been so many multi-applicants.

★ Thousands of fraudulent multi-applications have been uncovered for British Gas shares, dwarfing even the 6,600 that were found and ruled out for Telecom.

What clearer ammunition can the Labour leaders want to thoroughly expose the Tories, as cheap tricksters prepared to loot the public sector and thereby the majority of ordinary people, in the interests of their capitalist backers? Even Kleinwort Benson, who handled the Telecom privatisation, donated £20,000 to the Tories.

Labour must firmly restate its conference pledge to re-nationalise all privatised assets. This must be on the basis of compensation on proven need only. As for Best, he should get nothing.



No to privatisation



Telecom engineers protesting before privatisation.

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South African militant murdered

Hamba Kahle Comrade

WITH GREAT sorrow the comrades of the Marxist Workers' Tendency of the African National Congress announce the death of workers' leader and militant, known to us as Ivin Malaza. He was shot in the back by an assassin hired by the murderous Inkatha-based scab 'union', UWUSA. Ivin was a wonderful man; his life was an unyielding commitment to the struggle

for a socialist South Africa. The work he began will be continued by the comrades he has left.

Asisoze Sikulibale Futhi
Siyoqhubeka Njalo
Nomzabalazo Owawufela
We will never forget you; we will never give up the cause you died for.

Campaign for a socialist South Africa

WITH THE huge movement of 1984-6, the South African revolution has begun. The working class has sensed its power. Uniting under the banner of the African National Congress, workers and youth are searching for the way forward to defeat the apartheid state and end exploitation.

To raise this magnificent movement to its full height and take it to victory, a conscious struggle for socialism is required. Hundreds of thousands of activists are looking for the way to build the trade unions and Congress youth organisations on socialist lines. Yet the Stalinist South African Communist Party uses its influence in the African National Congress to urge compromises with the 'liberal' bosses, and opposes a socialist programme.

To assist workers and youth in the mass organisations consciously struggling for socialism, *Militant* and *Inqaba Ya Basabeni* (the journal of the Marxist Workers' Tendency of the African National Congress) have launched the Campaign for a Socialist South Africa (CSSA) to raise £100,000 this year.

Already £40 has been raised in an hour on a housing estate in Hackney; hour-long street collections in the same area have brought in between £25 and £30. In Newcastle over £500 was raised in a week.

If £100,000 is to be raised, these examples need to be repeated over and over again. Large workplaces should be targeted and collections organised. CSSA campaigners have found a ready response from workplaces not otherwise politically involved. Street and door-to-door collections with appeal sheets must be organised.

Inqaba is well received by socialists in Britain and should be sold together with *Militant* during these collections and meetings.

Meetings, with targets of £500 or more, should be arranged. Posters and material with further details of the aims of the CSSA are available, to assist in this.

Every penny raised towards the £100,000 will be used directly in helping to build a mass worker-controlled ANC with a socialist programme to prepare for the overthrow of the Apartheid regime and the ending of capitalist exploitation and misery.

Further details can be obtained from CSSA, c/o 80 Crossmount House, Bowyer Street, London SE5 OXB 43.

Read *Inqaba Ya Basabeni*
Journal of the Marxist Workers' Tendency of the ANC
New issue out now:
75p from BM Box
1719 London WC1N
3XX.

Militant

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Phone: (01) 533-3311

Buthelezi's death squad gangsters

THE MURDER in South Africa of Ivin Malaza is an example of the bloody record of Gatsha Buthelezi's tribally-based vigilante movement, *Inkatha*.

Amongst those recently killed by his gangsters are Youth Congress activists in Natal, four strike leaders in the BTR plant at Howick and three SANUM members from ZINCOR mine.

These attacks are part of the murderous campaign of the Botha regime and big business against those fighting for genuine democracy, in an attempt to weaken militant unions and replace them, where they can, with the *Inkatha* scab 'union' UWUSA.

Well-armed death squads, directly commanded by Buthelezi, are sponsored by the capitalists. The SANUM has produced affidavits testifying that officials of the British-owned Gold Fields Security Company collaborated in the attacks on ZINCOR workers.

British capitalism portrays Buthelezi and *Inkatha* as 'moderating' and 'democratic' forces in South Africa. Buthelezi's real aim is to wage a counter-revolutionary struggle against the black South African working class. He does this politically through his support for foreign bosses' investment in the Apartheid cheap labour system. And his hands are soaked in blood through his command of the Zulu 'impis' and armed murder squads.

Recently he went as far as to demand arms for his KwaZulu police force from the South African law and order minister to use against the mass organisations of the working class. His death squads are already armed to the teeth.

British capitalists back *Inkatha* because it protects their profits. The kidnap and murder last December of Phineas Sibaya, the leader of the striking BTR workers at Howick in Natal and three other MAWU members, whose bodies were burned in their car, was carried out by *Inkatha* youth brigade members.

The main beneficiaries of these murders were the British, anti-union bosses of BTR. British companies like Gold Fields and BTR and the Tories who defend British big business's £12 billion stake in the exploitation of South African workers, are all accessories to *Inkatha's* massacre of South African workers and youth.

These murders are a challenge to COSATU and the trade union movement generally in South Africa. Immediate and effective measures are now being demanded by the workers. It is vital that the trade union movement build armed defence units to protect their organisations and to prepare for the future armed overthrow of the regime.

Workers in Britain and internationally have the duty to forge and strengthen direct links at all levels of the trade union movement to reinforce the ties of international solidarity with South African workers.

The Labour Party leaders must commit the next Labour government to:

- ★ break with the past practice of Labour governments of collaboration with Apartheid in the economic field;
- ★ mobilise the movement to impose economic sanctions;
- ★ end diplomatic relations with the regime;
- ★ provide arms and other material support to defend the South African workers' movement from attack and assist in the downfall of the Apartheid state.

Marxists internationally will mourn the death of Comrade Malaza, but will recognise that the most valuable memorial to his life and struggle will be the building of the workers' movement and the forces of Marxism.

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

Ivin Malaza memorial fund

A MEMORIAL FUND has been established to raise money to carry on the work and aims for which our comrade died, as well as to give assistance to his widow and two children.

On Friday 10 April, the day the fund was launched, almost £600 was raised from socialists in Britain. This shows the deep sense of solidarity among British workers and youth for our co-fighters in the South African revolutionary movement.

Foremost amongst those donating to the fund were supporters of *Militant*. Editors and staff on the paper contributed over £400, including £50 from Peter Taaffe, £50 from Clare Doyle and £20

from Ted Grant.

Scottish miner, Chris Herriot, sacked by the Coal Board, donated £25.

These examples show the magnificent response that will follow from the wider labour movement if the appeal is taken to workers and youth.

Socialists internationally will be determined to ensure that the work undertaken by Ivin Malaza and continued by his comrades in South Africa under the most difficult and dangerous conditions will not be stopped.

Donations should be sent to The Ivin Malaza Memorial Fund, c/o Councillor L Faulkes, 143B Amhurst Road, London E8 2AW.



Zulu 'impis' in Chief Buthelezi's *Inkatha* movement.

Photo: Philip Littleton (Reflex).

Youth Congress will intensify struggle

WITH THE launch of the South African Youth Congress (SAYCO), the heroic South African youth have for the first time a national organisation to link students, young workers and the unemployed. This can redouble the explosive impact which they have already had on the political scene.

Out of 30,000 people detained by the regime since the State of Emergency was imposed last June, half have been under 18. In one small township, Kagiso, up to 3,000 youth have been detained.

In a Natal township recently, twelve people, including five children under ten, were lined up against a wall and gunned down by killers of *Inkatha*, Buthelezi's private army. They were looking for a youth leader.

A survivor of this massacre described the atrocity: "At about 2.30 am we were woken by loud shouts... I looked through the window and saw a white mini-bus, then heard

shooting inside the house. I picked up my baby and hid in a wardrobe. They shot under the bed and killed those hiding there. Luckily for me they did not think to open the wardrobe."

When the youth leader returned from hiding to his house the following day he was immediately detained by the police. As in any number of massacres, the link between the *Inkatha* death squads and the police is well established.

Minimum wage

SAYCO has been formed out of the numerous battle-hardened Youth Congresses created up and down the country during two years of revolutionary struggle from 1984 to 1986. It has a vital role in bringing young workers into the COSATU trade union federation and into political struggle, in particular from among the unorganised workers.

COSATU's campaign for a national minimum wage could play a crucial part in mobilising broader sections of youth, because it is they

who enter the labour market at the lowest rates of pay. The bosses fear this campaign because it can capture the imagination of the vast majority of workers.

Most youth and worker activists have realised that none of our demands will be met for as long as the capitalist system continues.

The most serious demand of the youth is for arms. This is not demanded in an adventurist way, but because we need them to defend ourselves against the *Inkatha* killers, the vigilantes and the state forces themselves.

Some SAYCO leaders who support the SA Communist party have tried to keep the word 'socialism' out of our programme. Their excuse is the need to win over church youth (who in fact want socialism as well) and also, they admit, because to demand socialism goes against the CP line!

Now the youth are saying: if this is so, what is the purpose of the CP? We need a socialist ANC!

From a SAYCO activist

Owen shows his true blue colours

SOCIAL Democratic Party (SDP) leader David Owen talked openly on *Weekend World* this Sunday about a possible deal with the Tories after the next general election.

By Roger Shriver

He said that if Labour and the SDP-Liberal Alliance and Labour were to do a deal, Labour would have to keep Polaris until 1997, keep Tory anti union laws, and ditch any radical economic moves.

He made few such demands on a deal with the Tories, apart from proportional representation and policies to mop up some unemployment which would, he claims, get the backing of many Tory MPs.

Owen is a Tory in very thin disguise. During the miners' strike, he appeared to consider Thatcher a bit soft on the NUM. He backs incomes policy, and has suggested linking pay with productivity and fining firms which pay workers too much!

In an opinion poll of top

business people last autumn Owen was the most popular party leader. The bosses encouraged the birth of the SDP to split Labour after the experience of the Callaghan government moved Labour's rank and file to the left.

Now after the Greenwich and Truro by elections, Owen hopes the Tory press will report glowingly on the SDP Liberal Alliance, to ensure at least a cabinet job for himself if there's a Tory or hung parliament.

'Communists' say vote Alliance

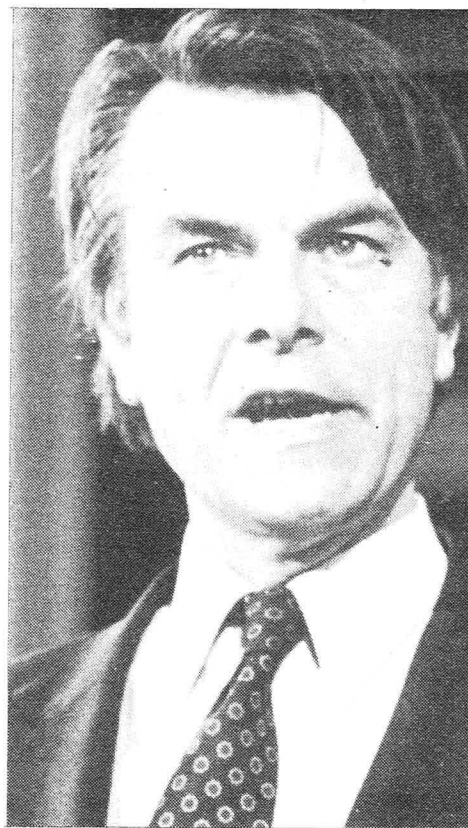
THE ALLIANCE got some unexpected backing this weekend; from *Marxism Today*. Or perhaps it's not unexpected. After all, who were the people who gave a socialist gloss to the Labour leaders' recent rightward lurch? Communist Party gurus like Eric Hobsbawm and the editorial board of

Marxism Today. Their ultra pessimistic views on the "decline" of the working class and "the forward march of labour halted" gave respectability to pro capitalist policies.

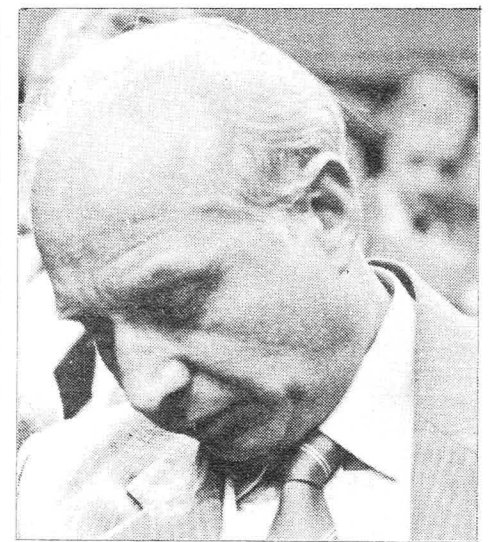
The May issue of *Marxism Today* recommends "voting for the candidate who is best placed to keep out the Tories" ie vote for the Alliance if necessary.

Hobsbawm announced the tactical voting call of this section of the 'Communist' Party leadership the very same weekend as Owen ditched his party's radical fig leaf. Hobsbawm accompanied the new party line with attacks on left wingers like Benn and Scargill.

A vote for the Alliance is a vote to keep Thatcher in Number Ten. Labour voters can see now the real logic of the arguments of Hobsbawm and Kinnock. The fellow travellers of the SDP in the Labour Party want to push Labour even further to the right. Join the fight for a socialist campaign for a Labour election victory.



David Owen



Gavin Laird

GAVIN LAIRD, right wing general secretary of the engineering union AEU, has told his national committee that Labour should consider striking a deal with the Alliance if no party wins an outright majority. "If the Alliance will accept our policies on education, manufacturing and training and unemployment they can join us in implementing them." Of course there would be no question of watering down policies to accommodate David Owen, would there?

Tory collapse gives the Liberals Liverpool seat

DESPITE A marvellous campaign, Labour's candidate in Liverpool St Mary's, Ian Rogers, was defeated by the Liberals in a council by election on 9 April.

Ian lost with the fourth highest vote Labour have ever got in this marginal seat. The 2500 Labour votes were a testimony to the work of the Labour council, particularly with all the setbacks for Labour nationally, the attacks by our own leadership and the disgusting press campaign.

Nationally Labour's vote has been whittled away by Liberals in by elections. In St Mary's Labour's vote stood

firm, only 200 down on 1986 when the seat was won. Labour supporters found very good and vocal support in canvass returns. Labour posters outnumbered Liberal by ten to one.

National leaders

On the day however the Liberal vote went up by 650. The Tory vote went down from 1283 in 1980 to 276 this year; it had halved since last year. Tories vote Liberal in Liverpool. Some small sections of Labour voters were confused, despite our excellent campaign; workers are not immune to the gutter press and TV.

During the campaign, Labour nationally slumped to third in the polls and many voters saw the national leadership as ineffectual.

This reduced confidence to get out and vote. Merseyside Labour MP Frank Field's call for people not to vote Labour if there's a *Militant* candidate and Neil Kinnock's comment that Liverpool should be looked after by a Liberal administration also had just enough effect to do the Liberals' dirty work.

Volatile

One irony is that some less informed Liberal voters were probably voting against the general poverty of Thatcher's Britain and voting for a change. Unfortunately only the experience of a Liberal administration will show them the Liberals are Tories Mark Two. The new Liberal voters will be far more volatile support than Labour's rock solid backing.

We are not demoralised. The city has been politicised and the results in a by election can be overcome. Labour lost Old Swan in a by election in January 1986 but in May Labour held the city.

There was only a two per cent wing against Labour. Even if this swing was repeated City wide Labour would retain Liverpool. A massive section of the working class have been educated through the city's struggles, their support for socialism is greater today than ever. This is ideal ground to build a mass fighting Labour Party in every area of the city and get Labour re-elected in May.

By Kath Lee



ELECTION COUNTDOWN

TENANTS OF Tabard estate in Southwark met Labour's candidate for Bermondsey, John Bryan last week. Alex Moore reports.

More than a third of the borough's council housing is unsatisfactory or unfit

to live in. The most desperate families are dumped in the most rundown areas.

One woman at the meeting said: "I've three children, two of them with disabilities and I'm pregnant. I live in a flat that's so damp the wallpaper won't stay up. I have asked for a transfer time and again but nobody at the housing office takes any notice. What are you going to do about it?"

Such meetings help to fight the Tories and the Alliance. Twelve tenants have joined the Labour Party recently and we got a great response to a petition we took round the following Sunday calling for Labour to build a million homes a year.

Compare this to Roy Hattersley's meeting last Wednesday when he spoke at a *Financial Times* lunch for foreign bankers reassuring them that Labour's policies were credible and effective—for bankers of course. Forget the big bankers' City and come to the inner cities and win the election for Labour.

Witch-hunt round-up Birmingham

LABOUR'S director of party organisation, Joyce Gould, has suspended Birmingham District Labour Party.

The right wing Labour group, who have been gunning for the district party (DP), joined a boycott of the DP by right wing constituencies who did not accept that a delegate from Selly Oak was a party member. Even when Selly Oak agreed to withdraw their delegate, the right wing were still not satisfied.

Last year, the Labour group leader Dick Knowles ignored the district party and launched his own manifesto. Policy documents had already been printed in advance by West Midlands regional office!

This year the right wanted to ensure the DP would have no say in the 7 May election manifesto. Hence the pressure for suspension.

One councillor has been thrown out of the Labour group for attending the Black Sections conference. Left councillors have been asked to sign 'Loyalty pledges' after a new broad left grouping the 'Summerfield group' was formed. Although it has very limited demands it has become a thorn in the side of the right wing and the last national executive voted to outlaw the group.

Swansea

RIGHT WINGERS in Swansea Labour Association suffered a severe set back in their attempts to expel Alex Thraves and Roy Davies for alleged membership of *Militant*.

The Association's executive held two special meetings in one week to set up an inquiry team. But Labour headquarters at Walworth Road told them that the investigation could not go ahead. The Labour Association, (which is an

amalgamation of Swansea East and Swansea West constituencies) was an unconstitutional body! Only general management committees can carry out such an investigation. Not only has the investigation been dropped, but the right wing Association, in existence for 40 years, is now to be disbanded and two separate general committees set up. The strong left presence in Swansea West would make it difficult to proceed with any action against the two Swansea West members.

By a Militant reporter

Liverpool 47 Defence Fund

The House of Lords has confirmed the decision of the courts and upheld the Tory Law which has surcharged and disqualified the Liverpool Labour Councillors. Along with many other Labour Authorities, the Liverpool Labour Group defied the Tory Government in 1985 by setting a late rate. At that time Liverpool and Lambeth found themselves alone - that must not happen now!

WE HAVE A DUTY TO RAISE THE COST OF THE SURCHARGE THROUGH THE LABOUR AND TRADE UNION MOVEMENT.



The forty seven surcharged Councillors are a mixed group in every sense across the political and social spectrum. In age from Jackie Crowley (22 yrs) to Hugh Dalton (74 yrs). In profession from Paul Astbury (an unemployed plasterer) to John Linden (a solicitor with his own practise). What they do have in common is a commitment to help the people of Liverpool and if the legal costs are not met, they face bankruptcy, attachment of earnings, loss of job and loss of personal property.

LIVERPOOL LABOUR COUNCILLORS MUST NOT STAND ALONE

Please send donations to Liverpool 47 Defence Fund, c/o 7 Gambier Terrace, Liverpool 1. Telephone 051 427 3071. Cheques payable to Liverpool 47 Defence Fund.

Workers' Education Group

Socialist Summer Camp

Saturday 8 August to
Saturday 15 August
1987

Bracelands campside, Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire.

Courses on Marxist Economics, youth and the struggle for socialism, the Russian revolution, USA, the third world. Plus rallies, debates, discos, sports, creche.

Book your holiday now. Cost £40 (75 for family booking). Brochure available from end of Easter. Book from: Workers Education Group, PO Box 332, London E15 3BY.

Tower Hamlets' Liberal racists

THEY SAID IT!

"I LOOK FORWARD TO THE DAY WHEN TWO LANGUAGES ARE SPOKEN IN THIS COUNCIL CHAMBER" So said Labour councillor Phil Maxwell at a recent meeting. What a twerp! The Council's a shambles already without translations from Bengali going on! Or did he mean Urdu? or Welsh? It's time the Labour Party realised there's lots of minorities in the Boro', not just one, and ideas like that are silly. They'll try anything for Bengali votes!

IN A BLATANTLY racist move, Tower Hamlets Liberal council have singled out the borough's Bengali population for attack.

Tower Hamlets is in financial chaos and the council is scrabbling to find "economies". Every section of the community is suffering as rents go up and services get worse. But the Liberals are attempting to divide and rule with particularly vicious measures against the Bengalis.

They have begun proceedings to drive a number of Bengali families out of the temporary homes they are currently living in. Forty one families have already been notified that the council will no longer pay for temporary accommodation or bed and breakfast hotels. Many further notices are in the pipeline.

The Liberals claim that people who leave Bangladesh to join their families in this country have no right to expect a roof over their heads here and have made themselves voluntarily homeless.

Mashuk Miah's case shows what this means. He has lived and worked in the borough for over twenty years. After years of waiting, his wife and children were allowed into Britain to join him. Two days after their arrival, they were evicted because they were living in overcrowded accommodation. Now, they are to be driven out of their temporary accommodation. The Liberals told the Miah's "in our view it would be reasonable for you to occupy the accommodation you were in in Bangladesh!"

Discrimination

This means repatriation by the back door. This is not the first time the Bengali community has suffered from Tower Hamlets Council's policies. A decision to give housing priority to sons and

daughters of sitting tenants tended to discriminate against Bengalis. The system of allocating homes over the phone is also a problem when Bengali speaking residents far outnumber Bengali speaking council staff.

The Liberals seem keen to avoid scrutiny of their policies. The Race and Housing team which they inherited from the GLC is being dispersed. Several members have been downgraded as a result. Aid to a number of Bengali community groups (and others as well) has been cut, while money available from the government to monitor race relations remains unclaimed.

Tory courts have put a Liberal council in control of Liverpool. If Tower Hamlets is anything to go by, Liverpool's black population will suffer more than anyone else for the Law Lords' decision.

By Dave Fryatt
Bow and Poplar LP



Bengalis in Tower Hamlets and (above) leaflet recently put out by the Liberals in the borough.

Liverpool: Black Caucus back Liberals...

IN LIVERPOOL, the self-appointed Black Caucus has welcomed the imposed Liberal council as the saviour of the black community. The Liberals' vindictive sacking of Sam Bond "opens the door for unity between the council and the black community. This is a step towards improving race relations and addressing the issues facing Liverpool's black community." Black Caucus spokesman, Rudy Holder told the

Caribbean Times.

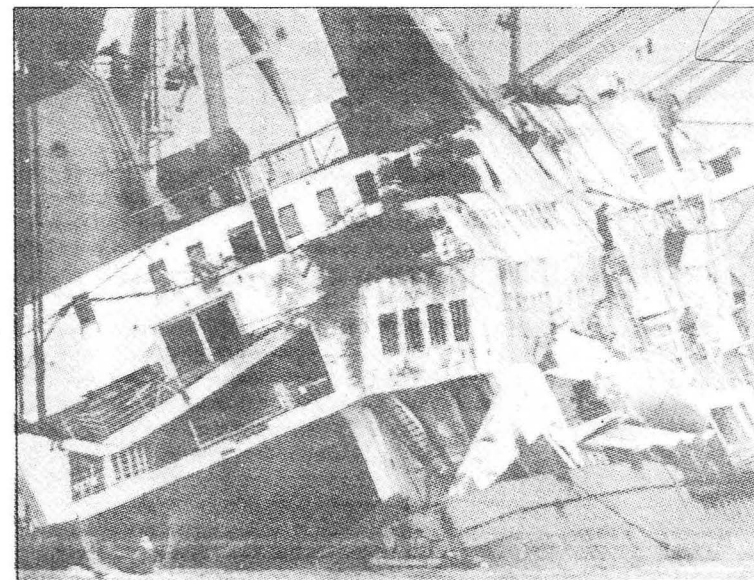
The Liberals have already blocked any further intake of YTS trainees on full rates of pay into the council's workforce. In the last intake under Labour, more than 20 per cent of successful applicants were black. £25million worth of house building has also been frozen. Under Labour, 84 per cent of house building was in the main black area, Liverpool 8.

That's all immaterial for the

Black Caucus! Their main concern is not what's good for Liverpool's blacks, but what's good for them. That is why they congratulated the Liberals on sacking Sam Bond, confident that one of their supporters will get his job, and they refuse to condemn the cuts which will affect the majority of Liverpool blacks.

By Colin de Freitas

Official report shows Pressure that sank ferry



IT HAS now emerged that the *Herald of Free Enterprise* sank off Zeebrugge because of a series of fatal events, leading to water pouring in through the unsealed bow doors as she steamed out of harbour.

The analysis made in a 2,000 word report by the Zeebrugge maritime chief of police, Jose van den Bussche, confirms *Militant's* analysis put together from information given by workers in various ports only days after the disaster.

But Bussche's report failed to lay the blame on the need to meet strict turn-round schedules laid down by the operators, Townsend Thoresen. This puts pressure on ferry captains to leave port with the bow doors still open to save time.

Militant suggested that the disaster was caused because the ship was lying low in the water, allowing water to spill into the car decks through unsealed bow doors.

In his report Mr van den Bussche says that evidence he has gathered "raises crucial questions about the way the *Herald of Free Enterprise* was trimmed as it left harbour, pushing up the bow wave between 3.5 and four metres high." In its state of trim at the time experts believe the boat's open bow doors were themselves only 3.5 metres

above sea level. The bow wave would have been forced at high pressure through the relatively narrow bow area, fanning out to flood the decks as it surged the length of the vessel.

Militant said (issue 839): "At Zeebrugge the quayside is particularly low, and the ferries have to take in water as ballast on the way over, to bring the car deck down to the level at which vehicles can drive on. But it would waste precious time to pump the ballast out. The ferries put to sea low in the water, emptying the ballast on the way back." This paper was able to gather information, and make a limited but correct analysis by talking to the people who know; the workers in the industry. It shows that only a labour movement inquiry is capable of bringing to light the real causes behind the disaster. Only an industry run by the workers themselves will guarantee safety at sea.

By Eddie Truman
Portsmouth LPYS

...and Nalگو leader helps them

SAM BOND and Beryl Molyneux, the first victims of Liverpool Liberals' axe, are fighting for their jobs. They have been denied a fair hearing by the imposed Liberal regime and therefore have resorted to the courts. Their success in gaining an injunction to prevent the Liberals sacking them is now being challenged in court.

No one will be surprised at the Liberals' determination to remove them. However, the whole labour movement will be outraged that they have been backed up by an affidavit by Graham Burgess, the chairperson of Liverpool Nalگو. This is unforgivable.

The Liberals argued in court that Sam could not do his job because of "external causes", meaning the

hostility of the Black Caucus and the Nalگو boycott of his job. In Beryl Molyneux's case, the Liberals argued that her job is being "reorganised". Beryl is a scale one clerical worker. There are dozens of vacancies for such jobs. No one has offered her one as an alternative, or even explained why she was sacked.

Precedents

No criticism of Sam or Beryl's ability to do their jobs was made. Neither have been allowed access to grievance or disciplinary procedures. If the Liberals are successful, these precedents could be used against any of Liverpool Council's workforce.

Militant can and will play a key part in the YS's campaigning this year.

Our coverage of the school students' movement has been unique. Young people should use articles on issues affecting them to sell the paper. Because of our back page on the scrapping of the maternity grant, 50 papers were sold last weekend in Glasgow, 25 were sold on the doorstep in Grimsby and good sales were reported at antenatal clinics in Leicester and Manchester.

The first issues of *Militant* only came out once a month. Our sales campaign '87 is preparing the way for a twice weekly and then a daily. We're asking you to help in this campaign. Write for *Militant*, sell *Militant*, make *Militant* your paper.

Even some lawyers were shocked at Graham Burgess's behaviour. One of them was staggered that a trade union leader could "line up with the boss and help sack workers". Burgess's actions will have implications for Nalگو members in Liverpool and nationally. They will want to know what has happened to the branch policy of non-cooperation with the imposed Liberal regime. Graham Burgess has surely broken it and should resign. Undoubtedly, Nalگو members in Liverpool and round the country will show their disgust at this action by writing to Nalگو in Liverpool and nationally demanding that he does so.

By Mick Whale

Memorial Meeting

for Geoff Haney; victim of Zeebrugge.

At Central Hall, Manchester. On Friday, May 1st.

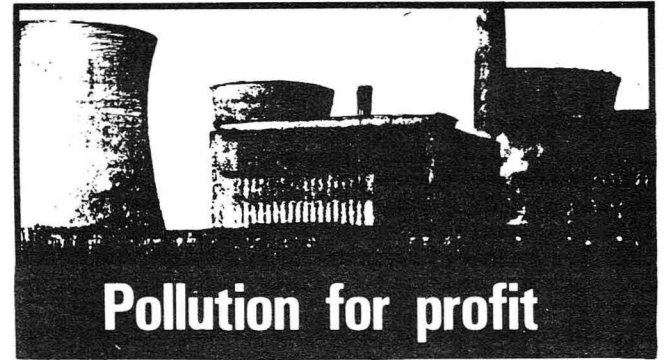
Speakers include: Terry Fields MP Ted Grant Phil Frampton Ricardo Acuna Joe Anderson NUS The Moses Mayekiso Choir.

Sell Militant

YOUNG SOCIALISTS, sell *Militant*! Ever since its first issue, *Militant* has played an essential role in building the Labour Party Young Socialists. And LPYS members have been our best sellers. Last Saturday, for example, Provan Young Socialists sold 20 papers at Easterhouse shopping centre.

Our reports of LPYS branches' activities have shown others how to run their own campaigns. Articles on theory and history have helped educate thousands of YS members.

Capitalism a threat to life on earth



1987 is 'European Year of the Environment'. In the first of a series of articles MARTIN COCK looks at some of the dangers posed by the capitalist system of production to the future of the world we live in.

On 21 March, though no-one would know it, the EEC launched a campaign to defend the environment.

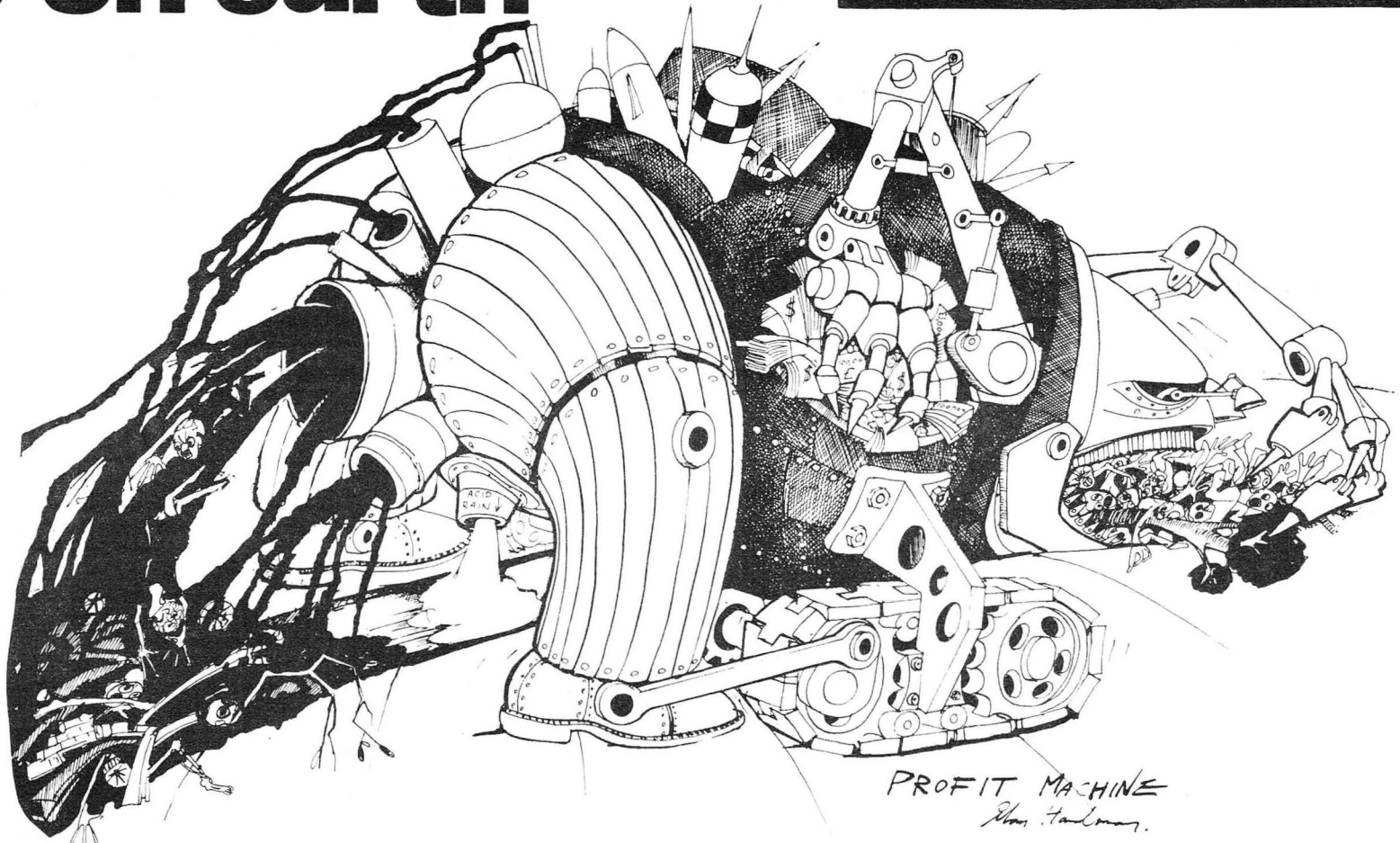
The 'Eurocrats' are responding to the mushrooming 'Green' movement, which is beginning to have a major effect on British politics. A 1983 MORI opinion poll, for example suggested that over 20 per cent of the electorate would consider switching their votes to the party with the best environmental policy. According to Lord Northfield, head of a building consortium, even Prince Charles has been hijacked by the "Loony Green Brigade"!

As a result, the Labour Party has appointed Dr David Clarke, MP for South Shields, and a committed 'Green' involved in the Ramblers' Association, the National Trust and the Open Spaces Society, as its environment spokesman. Policies are already being drafted to impose planning controls on farmers, set up an environmental protection service and abolish foxhunting and coursing, amongst others.

Greenpeace

Environmental societies of one sort or another have a combined national membership of 3.4 million. Greenpeace UK, alone, has 90,000 members and the 'Greenpeace International' organisation has an annual turnover of \$23 million. They, and the Green Party which will be standing at least 150 candidates at the General Election, represent the tip of a growing social movement.

The membership of these organisations is overwhelmingly middle-class. Some of their policies and attitudes are damaging to the labour movement and particular groups of workers such as those in the chemical industry—to whom they do not offer alternative jobs after closure of 'harmful' plants. Many are tinged with the ideology of the hippie movement, such as the "small is beautiful" syndrome of small, community-based artisans and co-operatives as the basis for



modern industry!

Nevertheless, latent support exists amongst the working class for policies to improve the environment in which we live.

After all, it is working class families who are forced to live next to gigantic chemical plants with the power to kill whole towns overnight by leaks, such as that on 1 November last year at the Sandoz plant, which released tons of dangerous chemicals into the River Rhine.

Illegal storage of chemicals such as sodium, chloric acid and phosgene only ten yards from the burning tank, according to a report by the German SPD, could have led to a highly explosive, lethal cocktail of chemicals setting off a reaction which could have killed thousands.

Workers in the chemical industry themselves, according to a recent report by ASTMS, are likely to have much higher levels of impotence, infertility, birth defects and childhood cancer than the population at large. The trade union movement has a duty to campaign for proper safeguards and security precautions for these and related workers such as firemen who are issued with inadequate breathing equipment for dealing with poisonous fumes. The

FBU estimates that there are scores of firemen up and down the country suffering from respiratory and bronchial diseases as a result.

It is not only at work that workers suffer the effects of the bosses' total lack of concern for the environment and for the resulting risks to health.

Even in the 'safety' of your home, new research by the European Office of the World Health Organisation suggests that you're at increased risk of cancer from man-made mineral and glass fibres used to insulate 16 million homes in Britain.

Pollution

Many workers 'escape' at Bank Holidays and longer holidays to the seaside, only to swim in the sea and find floating human sewage next to them. Only 27 of Britain's 635 recognised bathing beaches are up to EEC standards on pollution.

In the countryside, since 1949, Britain has lost a staggering 95 per cent of its hay meadows, 80 per cent of its chalk downlands, 60 per cent of its heathland, 40 per cent of its natural woodland, over 50 per cent of its marshes and 150,000 miles of hedgerow. Not only does this mean that some of the most beautiful countryside, where many

workers enjoy a break, has been destroyed, but it has a dramatic effect on farming techniques and, in the long term, on the delicate balance of ecology world-wide.

Much research has taken place on the long-term effects of deforestation and the consequent fall in oxygen production, which is the basis for all life. The earth's temperature has been rising gradually since the industrial revolution as a result of the 'greenhouse effect'—where carbon dioxide pumped into the atmosphere by industry acts as a trap for solar heat, similar to the way in which glass holds the heat in a greenhouse.

A study by Dr Mick Kelly of the Climate Research Unit at the University of East Anglia suggests that Britain's climate by 2030 would be similar to that of Southern-Central France. The other side of hotter weather, though, would be water shortages, drought and a drop in agricultural productivity.

In a similar way, sulphur emissions from coal-fired power stations have been shown to be responsible for 'acid rain' which has led to the 'death' of thousands of lakes and forests throughout Europe, particularly in Scandinavia and Northern Germany. The

Tories announced last year a £600 million programme for the 'cleaning' of these stations, yet their own figures estimate that £2.5 billion is actually necessary.

Such vast resources, on top of those needed for the cleaning of beaches and towns, anti-pollution measures in the air, rivers and lakes, proper safety measures for the storage of dangerous chemicals, are available now but can only be released through a socialist plan of production.

Mass trespasses

This is something the 'green' movements cannot understand. It is only the labour movement which has the power and the potential to protect the environment. We have a rich tradition of fighting for the health and welfare of ordinary workers, in and out of the workplace. It was the labour movement, for example, which led the mass 'trespasses' on 'private' land in the 1930s to win access for ramblers and hikers.

The environment is not a moral issue, but rather a social and class issue. The future of the planet itself, in reality, lies in the hands of the organised labour movement. Capitalism threatens to pollute, cut and destroy it out of existence.

Fighting Fund

This week
£2024

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target
1 South East	1300		2250
2 London	3155		1900
3 South West	610		9350
4 Southern	911		3050
5 East Midlands	837		3200
6 Eastern	784		4800
7 Wales	1079		3250
8 Yorkshire	1374		4600
9 Scotland East	438		4750
10 West Midlands	771		8300
11 Manchester/Lancs	581		2800
12 Merseyside	1134		7500
13 Northern	669		3850
14 Scotland West	191		3500
Others	9331		6900
Total	23167		70000

EVERYONE ATTENDING the Labour Party Young Socialists conference in Blackpool this weekend should make a special donation to the *Militant* Fighting Fund. Help us smash our target for the *Militant* meeting with a bumper collection in recognition of this paper's defence of the LPYS and its programme for fighting the Tories and building socialism.

Even if you are not going to the conference, why not send us a donation anyway, to help prepare the way for the twice-weekly *Militant*. Follow the example of those whose donations have arrived at our office this week, like A Craig and T Wall from Newcastle, who sent us £50 and £30 respectively.

K Leach from Fulham donated £40 and Tim Neave and Dave Moscrop from Bristol each gave £10. And special thanks to Margaret Creear, who donated £24.60.

Some new ideas for fund-raising—£10 has come from Swansea from a win on the Grand National, and £68 from Sussex from a sponsored no-smoke. Heiko Khoo even raised £5 by getting on to a soap box at Hyde Park.

To celebrate May Day, every reader should aim for record sales and collections. London sellers have a plan of action which can be copied everywhere. They plan early morning workplace paper sales with buckets and tins on Thursday and Friday, with an

evening sale on Friday asking for the Solidarity price.

On Saturday they will set up stalls in their local shopping centres, sell stickers and attract a crowd so that they can approach them all for a donation. In the evening a social will be organised. Then on Sunday and Monday they have picked estates to sell the paper door-to-door, taking their tins and stickers. Don't forget to intervene in all the demos and local events and always carry a tin and ask for a donation.

Dougie Holt, the Liverpool socialist who died recently, showed his commitment to the end by leaving £150 in his will to the Fighting Fund.

Years of silence

The Queen's hidden cousins

THE TORY press is twisting and turning, trying to explain the outrageous treatment of the Bowes-Lyon sisters. It does not fit in with their usual presentation of the Royal Family, with its daily dose of Princess Di benignly opening this or that children's hospital.

This Royal hypocrisy exposes the true attitudes of capitalist society towards the handicapped. The sisters were placed in a Surrey mental institution in the 1940s when they were classified as being severely handicapped. Katherine and Nerissa Bowes-Lyon were nieces of the Queen Mother and descendants of the fifth Earl of Antrim and the 21st. Baron Clinton. They had never received help or contact from their aunt. Three more members of the Royal Family from the Fane line suffered the same fate. Such is the Royals' concern for their own, that the Bowes-Lyon sisters were listed as dead in the 1963 edition of Burke's Peerage, the aristocracy's Who's Who. Nerissa's own niece is chairman of Burke's Peerage.

Attitudes towards the mentally handicapped-people with learning difficulties- have progressed drastically since the inter-war years. Then it was not uncommon for teenage unmarried mothers to be certified "moral defectives" and locked away. This progress is no accident. It has been

spurred on by the advent of the National Health Service, the welfare state and the extension of education to all sections of the community, including those with special educational needs. But this enlightenment has not reached the pinnacle of the British ruling class, the Royal Family, nor even the patron of the mental health charity MENCAP, the Queen Mother.

This Royal hypocrisy exposes the true attitudes of capitalist society to the handicapped.

British capitalism presents the Royal Family as a perfect model family; the moral leaders of society who paternalistically oversee the welfare of us all. In fact, they just mirror the hard-nosed attitudes of the British aristocracy and the capitalist class. They sped up the death of George V in time to catch the morning papers and they lock away and hide the handicapped. In their money-grabbing, profiteering society survival of the fittest is the rule.

It is a sick fact that the Monarchy's race-horses and corgis receive more attention, loving care and support than disabled members of the family. It takes £240 a week to look after Katherine Bowes-Lyon on the NHS, less than it takes to keep a

champion filly. The Queen Mother has over 100 servants. Just a fraction of the care she has lavished on her would be sufficient to allow a handicapped person a happy life in the community.

Now the remaining Bowes-Lyon niece has been discovered by a shocked media, she will receive care and attention. This will not be the case for the thousands

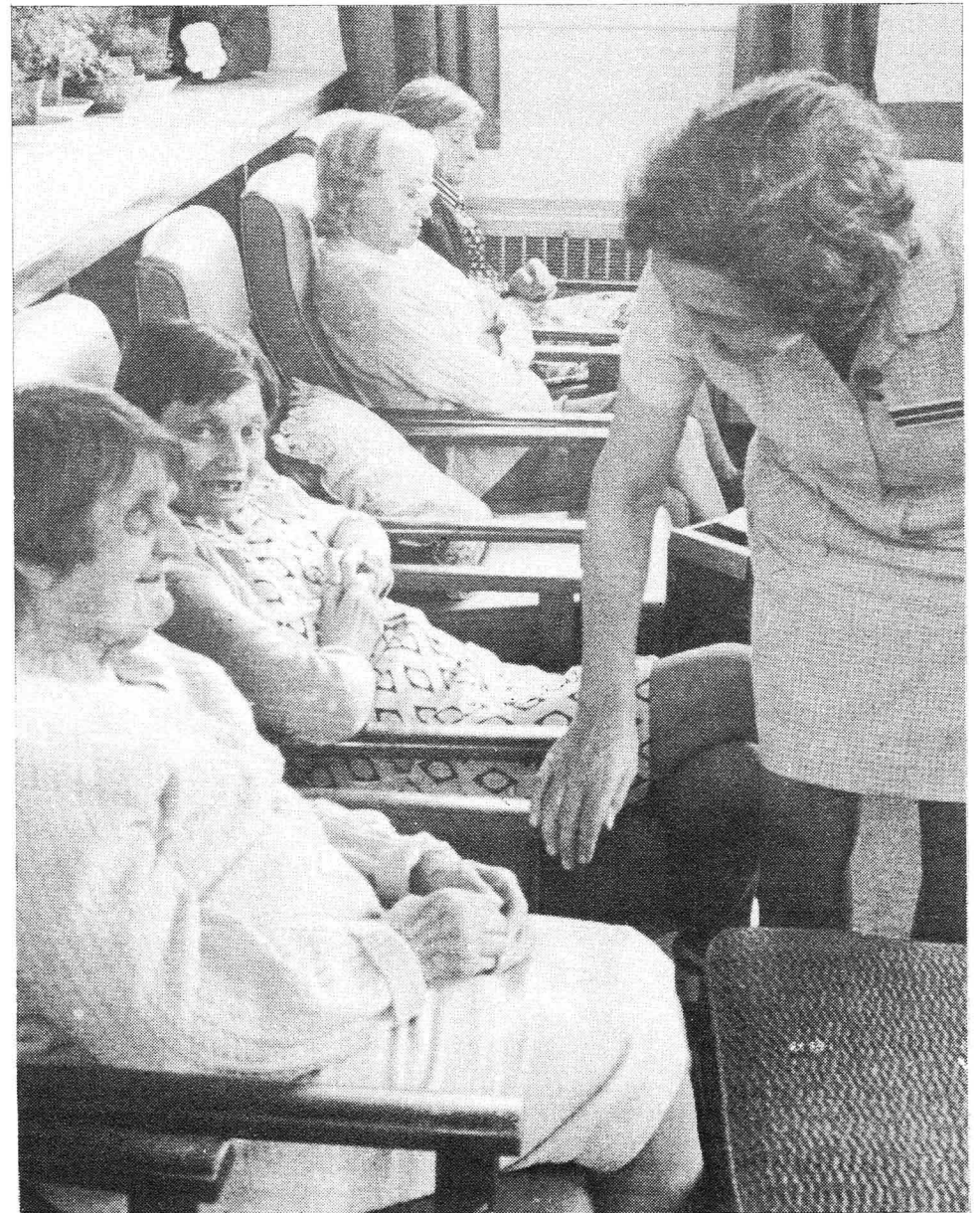
of working class people with learning difficulties. They will continue to have to fight for even the smallest extra provision in facilities and services. After they are 18, all statutory provisions cease, and it is left up to embattled local authorities to provide services. If they live in an inner city area, the constraints on the council's social services budget will cut their share of the cake to a minimum.

The press's concern for the Bowes-Lyons will be purely temporary. It only gives a hint of the real scandal of the conditions faced by thousands of people with learning difficulties in the community. There are no rich relations to bail the rest out.

Mental health feature

SCANDAL has blown up over the Royal Family shutting away five of its members in mental hospitals and trying to conceal their existence. Next week, an appeal is to be lodged against the sterilisation of 17 year-old Jeanette. The two cases raise the whole question of the position of the mentally handicapped in society.

Below, day care centre social worker, MAUREEN WADE comments on these issues.



A fraction of the care lavished on the monarchy would give the handicapped happy lives.

What kind of care?

THE PAST ten years have seen a tremendous change in the philosophy of the type of care provided for the mentally handicapped. The emphasis is now on normalisation. This essentially means that handicapped people- whatever the nature of their disability- have a right to live in the community and access to the same resources and rights as the rest of the population.

This change is partly a result of pressure from parental and professional groups, like MIND and MENCAP. More importantly, the handicapped themselves have discovered their own voices through self-advocacy and organisations such as People First. They have shown they have opinions and want to make decisions on how they live their own lives.

Professionals and parents are worried about what "care in the community" means under the Tories, who run it so as it is cost-effective. Large institutions have been closed down and their residents dumped in the community, without proper back-up resources in terms of staff and alternative living accommodation, leaving people at risk.

But, despite these inadequacies, the idea of sterilisation to prevent the risk involved in community care is

a dangerous path to take.

The fact is that people with learning difficulties should have rights over their own lives and have the right to make decisions about their own sexuality. The sterilisation of Jeanette implies that community care puts them more at risk of sexual abuse. That is a fallacy. Figures show that 85 per cent of people with learning difficulties have always lived in the community and not in institutions. In fact, women in institutions have become pregnant more frequently than those living in the community.

Sterilisation

There is a danger that sterilisation could come to be seen as a necessary evil if community care is to become the norm. It sets a dangerous precedent as to who decides who is and is not fit to reproduce. Jeanette's case is in the hands of the Appeal Court. When have the judiciary ever acted in the interests of ordinary people? And will sterilisation be limited to the mentally handicapped alone? Will the net spread further to engulf the physically handicapped, AIDS sufferers and so on? Through my work, I have met people who despite their disabilities have managed to form serious and long-

lasting relationships. With counselling and support, they have decided what contraception they use and whether they want children. The majority decided that they didn't want children. This was their own choice. There is no need to impose such decisions.

As socialists, we are against such infringements of human rights as the sterilisation of a person without their consent, whatever their abilities. We should oppose the sterilisation of women under 18. The sterilisation of women with learning difficulties over 18 should be restricted to those who can make informed choices.

We should demand the resources that will enable people with disabilities to take part in community life and give no credence to sterilisation on the basis of Tory cuts. Jeanette's sterilisation would have a finality which implies that she would never develop and that decisions will always be made for her. Socialism would provide the educational opportunities, staffing ratios and other resources which would guarantee that sterilisation would not be seen as an option when dealing with these human beings. They have every right to live their lives to the full.

Left and Right

Electric policing

FIRST THE good news: after shooting a number of innocent people, the police are looking for ways to avoid doing so again.

Now the bad news: they're considering a dart gun of the kind vets use on tigers, and a weapon which shoots 50,000 volts through its victim, rendering him helpless when his muscles contract in pain.

"Technology is moving on all the time, and we want to use the least possible force," says a police spokesman. Reassuring, isn't it?

Bus queue

SHIFT-WORK and physical attacks make driving a London bus tough work nowadays. Not surprisingly, the London Bus company has found itself short of drivers. So they advertised around the country.

They were deluged with an astonishing 14,000 applications from people prepared to get on their bikes to get on the buses.

But four hundred vacancies are still unfilled. Why? Because the capital's massive council waiting lists and exorbitant house prices meant that most applicants couldn't find anywhere to live.

Perhaps MPs who want us to move to find work would like to share out the £7,000 p.a. housing allowance they receive.

The axe-man cometh

PETER BRUINVELS, Tory MP for Leicester East, once offered to be public hangman. But travel has broadened his mind. In a recent Guardian interview, he revealed even more exotic ambitions.

In Saudi Arabia he saw arms and legs chopped off. "Very effective, very shocking" he enthuses, "I've seen gold on the streets of Dubai and no-one stole it. I've seen flogging there too. The man doing it has the Koran under his arm. The guy being flogged collapsed and they still carried on. It is a most effective way to stop crime. I've seen one policeman come into a room there and everyone froze. We've got a lot to learn from them."

We would like to know what punishment Peter proposes for multiple share applications.

God's representative in Brum

"I'VE HAD enough left-wingers and I don't need another tub-thumping bishop" Anthony Beaumont-Dark, MP for Birmingham Selly Oak told his leader. So Thatcher turned down the Church of England's first preference for the new Bishop of Birmingham.

The Almighty (the one in Downing Street that is) has decreed that the Right Reverend Mark Santer would take up the post, rather than the Right Reverend James Thompson, obviously a loony left since he likes people to call him Jim.

Over 2,000 working class youth in Blackpool to debate Young Socialists programme.

Labour Party Young Socialists National Conference 87

ANGRY exploited

Support grows against plans to re-organise Labour's youth section

1987 HAS seen the right-wing on Labour's National Executive Committee launching a new attack on the party's youth section, the LPYS.

Proposals for 're-organising' the LPYS drawn up by ex-left Tom Sawyer of NUPE, have been circulated to constituency Labour parties and affiliated organisations with replies to be received by the NEC by 22 May.

The short time given for this 'consultation' period is an indication of the right-wing's eagerness to rush through their organisational changes. They want to stunt the activities of the LPYS, and, it appears, as soon as possible remove the LPYS representative, Linda Douglas from the party's leading body.

to send out its alternative proposals. And now John Ellen (national chair of the LPYS) and Linda Douglas (LPYS rep on NEC) are under 'investigation' by General Secretary Larry Whitty, for circulating the LPYS proposals. So much for 'consultation'!

Still, the YS case is getting across. In the past few weeks the YS has received support from Brighton NUPE and Lambeth NUPE, who added that Sawyer should consult his membership before casting the NUPE vote at this year's party conference.

Within the Labour Party, the democratic wishes of Labour's National Women's Committee have been abused. When they decided to circulate all women's sections with the LPYS's proposals, Labour Party headquarters refused to send them out!

However, at Southern Region Labour Party conference, a resolution supporting the Sawyer proposals was defeated, and a resolution calling for the consultation to be postponed until after the general election was endorsed.

The LPYS has also received the full backing of the Campaign Group of Labour MPs, as well as support from a number of constituency Labour parties, many trade union branches and local ward Labour parties.

LPYS branches throughout the country must use the next five weeks to ensure that all local trade unions, Labour parties, women's sections and Labour clubs fully discuss the proposals, and that their views are sent to Joyce Gould at Walworth Road. If the proposals put forward by the LPYS win support we can be confident of building a mass LPYS in the next few years.

Election work

The LPYS is opposed to this internal matter taking up the party's time in the run-up to a general election, when the LPYS needs to be given time and resources to winning the 6.2 million young voters to support Labour. They are demanding these proposals are put off until after the general election, and that any changes are used to strengthen the youth organisation not to 'behead' it, by cutting the age limit to 21.

The consultation has now only five weeks left to run. Wherever LPYS members have raised the issues, the YS counter-proposals have been supported. But it is clear, that the right wing within the labour and trade union movement have tried to block moves for a genuine consultation process among the rank and file.

The LPYS National Committee was refused permission by the NEC



Photo: Militant

London school students demonstrate in support of teachers being forced to move to other schools.

Britain's youth

YOUTH IN Tory Britain are a generation that capitalism has deprived of hope. Young people beginning to think of what the future has in store for them, can see little but the scourges of youth unemployment, drugs, AIDS and even the possibility of nuclear war and the annihilation of humanity.

By Frances Curran

The Labour Party Young Socialists must prove to young people that socialism alone can answer their fears, and that the LPYS is a fighting youth organisation campaigning on their behalf.

According to the Samaritans, the number of youth suicides are up by 24 per cent. In 1986 they received over 10,000 calls from under 16 year olds and around 50,000 from under 20 year olds.

They put this down to the hopelessness and despair felt by

so many youth in an age of high unemployment. Our generation has been thrown on the scrapheap. Eight years of Thatcher and the Tories have condemned an entire generation to the nightmare of the dole. Teenagers today are more worried about war and unemployment than failing their exams.

With drug abuse rife and the spread of AIDS there is a fear and uncertainty about the future. The British Medical Association estimate "that one in three of all secondary school pupils are now affected by drug addiction".

In 1985 solvent abuse claimed 113 lives—the average age of its victims was 13. To date 377 people have died as a result of the AIDS virus. A quarter of all AIDS victims are believed to be in their 20's.

Comments such as "good Christians won't get infected" coming from Tories like Edwina Currie, sum up the government's attitude. Their latest response was to provide £7 million for the care and

treatment of AIDS patients. However, the BMA have estimated the cost of treatment this year alone will be £9.5 million and by 1990 will exceed £51 million.

The government has spent £20 million on an AIDS publicity campaign. They devoted £100 million to advertising British Gas shares. Those are their priorities.

But the crisis of capitalist society is also creating a harder generation, not intimidated by authority or the state, but prepared to battle for what they believe is their right. Look at the struggles of the young miners or of the young print workers for the right to work. Now the school students are taking to the road of struggle for the right to a decent education.

The LPYS is reaching out to all these sections of youth with the message: "join us in the struggle; the struggle against Thatcher and for a socialist future."

Aids, Drugs, Peace, Jobs—

What the LPYS says

- A massive increase in NHS spending to provide sufficient funds for the care of AIDS sufferers and for research into a cure.
- The provision of free contraception and of free needles, to curb the sharing of syringes. This to take place confidentially, away from any possible police harassment.
- Nationalisation of all the pharmaceutical companies.
- A substantial increase in rehabilitation centres for drug addicts.
- An immediate increase in the number of customs staff to keep out illegal drugs.
- The provision of decent community and leisure facilities for youth.
- The cancellation of Trident.
- Withdrawal of all US bases from Britain.
- Nationalisation of the arms industry and the reallocation of the skills and resources to socially useful production.
- Unilateral nuclear disarmament, with the recognition that only on the basis of socialism can peace be assured.
- Nationalisation of all those firms declaring redundancies.
- 35 hour week without loss of pay.
- A programme of public works, giving useful work to the unemployed, with trade union conditions and wages.
- A guaranteed job for all school and college leavers.
- A socialist planned economy that can guarantee full employment.

Labour Party Young Socialists National Conference 87

TORIES OUT

School students fight for their future

ANGER AMONGST school students against the attacks of the Tories is reaching boiling point. School students can see before them the grim future of exploitation on government cheap labour schemes or the despair of the dole queue.

By Dave Sirockin
(National Secretary, SSU)

They can see Tory cuts in higher education, inadequate grants and the renewed threat of student loans narrowing that escape route.

Many thousands of school students are not prepared to wait, see what the future brings and then perhaps protest. They are determined to vent their anger now, to demonstrate and even to strike.

Unlike perhaps their parents they have not been seduced by the idea of waiting for a general election, they are impatient for action now. They are also unconvinced that Labour will necessarily win the coming election, and so see no reason to delay.

They are not daunted as some trade unionists may have been, by setbacks for the working class over the last few years. Their enthusiasm and willingness to struggle is undimmed.

Some London schools have already taken action three or four times in as many weeks. They have sent 'flying' emissaries to nearby schools to bring them out too. In London they have adopted the slogan 'Save our Schools,' in the face of Tory education cuts, which are being passed on by the Labour controlled Inner London Educa-

tion Authority (ILEA).

Tory ratecapping and cuts in ILEA's budget has left the the ILEA leaders with the choice of combatting the government or attacking education in the capital. Shamefully they have capitulated and 700 secondary teachers are to be forcibly redeployed to primary schools. It means larger classes and the decimation of courses for the school students.

School students everywhere are frustrated at the lack of books, equipment and courses. It is they who bear the brunt of the Tories' attacks on education, which have left 40,000 teachers unemployed and school students having to bear unacceptable class sizes. The Tories are not interested in educating youth—they will only be on the dole anyway. They want hard pressed teachers merely to organise social control of a disillusioned generation.

Conscription

But what has really fired the students into action, is the Employment Secretary, Lord Young's threat to conscript youth onto YTS, if the Tories win the election. Jobless school leavers will be denied supplementary benefit if they refuse a place on the scheme.

The Manchester and Brighton school students who have come out on strike, despite the threats of intimidation, against Young's dragooning of youth, are just the beginning of the opposition.

On all these issues the School Students' Union (SSU) has called a national day of action for Thursday 14 May. Each school should set up a school students' action com-

mittee to co-ordinate the day's events. Lunchtime school gate meetings should be held.

The local labour movement should be contacted for support, speakers and finance. 14 May must be a day when the whole country hears the school students tell Thatcher exactly what they think about her. Local press and radio stations should be approached as a means to hammer the school students' message home.

In Manchester the Youth Action Committee, comprising school students, FE students and YTS trainees, that was established to prepare for their action, has continued to meet.

In all this activity the School Students' Union must be built as a strong force in every school. The Labour Party Young Socialists must link up with the SSU in each locality and help make 14 May an outstanding success. An emergency resolution has been submitted to the LPYS Conference urging YS branches to give support.

- ★ No to compulsory YTS.
- ★ No compulsory redeployment of teachers.
- ★ No victimisation of students taking action.
- ★ Recognition of the SSU by school authorities.
- ★ Votes at 16.

WE WOULD like to apologise for a mistake which appeared in last week's issue (*Militant* 842). The school students' strike in Manchester had been called by the FE national committee of NUS with the backing of Further Education Labour Students. The strike had not been called by FELS.



Youth in action

10,000 Young Socialists take to the streets in October 1986, as part of their 'Tories Out' campaign. The Labour Party has stopped its campaign of marches and rallies of the early eighties. The LPYS are the most energetic and active section of the labour movement. They will be committing themselves to all-out activity, to secure a Labour victory in the general election.

Manchester schools' strike

ANDREA ENISUOH is chair of the Youth Action Committee in Manchester, a body set up to link school students, further education students and trainees from the Youth Training Scheme, to fight back against Tory plans to conscript youth onto YTS. She spoke to *Militant*:

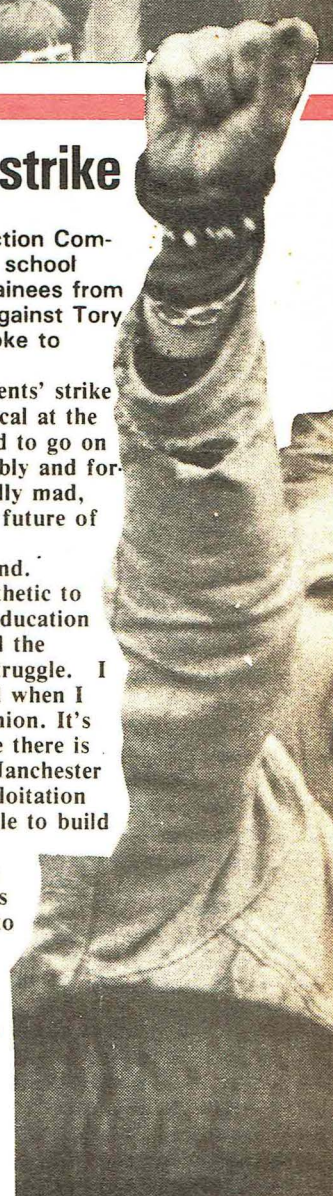
"I got involved during the 1985 school students' strike when our school was leafleted. I wasn't political at the time, but through discussions I was determined to go on strike. The headmistress called a special assembly and forbade us all to go on strike. That made me really mad, because the issue was so important, about the future of youth.

Practically the whole school came out in the end. Before I became political I wasn't very sympathetic to the teachers. I thought they were ruining my education by striking. But after the school strike I joined the Labour Party and I see their struggle as our struggle. I am at an FE college now. The first thing I did when I went there was get involved in the students' union. It's not active like it should be, but that is because there is an apathetic student union leadership. The Manchester lobby and school strike on 1 April against exploitation on YTS has changed that now. We've been able to build a big campaign around this.

There is anger among the students because the education department is trying to move courses to the other sites. We believe it is an attempt to hand our site over to the Manpower Services Commission.

Lord Young's statement that if you do not go on YTS you will lose your right to claim dole, has a dramatic impact when we tell students about it.

The mood in the schools is electric. The first school I visited, I was there for ten minutes and we collected 15 names for the LPYS. I think we can build a massive school students' union."





The LPYS has conducted an on-going campaign of solidarity with the South African revolution. Protest pickets, meetings and rallies have been held. The LPYS pamphlet, *For a Socialist South Africa*, has now been banned by President Botha, inside the country. Over 1,000 marched behind the LPYS banner on the Anti-Apartheid demonstration in June 1986. Moses Mayekiso, leader of the Metal and Allied Workers' Union, addresses last year's YS conference.



YS marcher gets jail

ANDY BROWN, above, (mistakenly referred to as Erone in *Militant* 840) arrested on the LPYS 18 October demonstration, was sentenced on 9 April to three months' imprisonment.

The whole trial was an absolute disgrace. The police blatantly lied throughout the hearing. And despite the fact that he was found not guilty of punching a police officer on the first count—showing that he had been wrongly arrested—he was found guilty of actual bodily harm, because he used too much force to defend himself. When the barrister explained that had Andy not

been wrongly arrested, none of the subsequent events would have occurred, and therefore asked for a suspended sentence, the police just sat and laughed.

It was only on the basis of a good social report that the sentence was kept to three months. But it is a disgrace that he should have been sentenced at all.

Daily black youth face harassment from the police, and find little justice in the capitalist courts either.

Send messages and letters to:-

Andrew D. Brown,
HMP Pentonville,
London N7.

Manifesto for youth

Forty-three per cent of young people support Labour according to a *Radio One* poll this week. The Tories trailed with 27 per cent. But when it came to the party leaders, Neil Kinnock scored only 21 per cent, compared with 28 per cent for Thatcher, when asked who would make the best prime minister. Despite the Tracey Ullman videos, it's policies not images that young people want. Other polls show only a third of youth intend to vote. The Labour Party Young Socialists are pushing for promises in the party's manifesto that will inspire youth to vote Labour.

John Hird, LPYS National Committee, outlines these demands.

No to YTS slave labour

THE YOUTH Training Scheme designed as 'a cheap anti-riot device' has been manipulated, by the bosses, such as the Sainsbury millionaires, to drive youth wages down.

If the YTS allowance had been increased in line with other wage increases, trainees would now be getting at least £45 a

week, about 40 per cent more than they are currently receiving.

The health and safety standards on YTS are appalling, with industrial injuries double the level of industry as a whole.

The Tories not surprisingly are having difficulties in persuading young people to fill the 400,000 places and are planning to coerce youth to go on the schemes by withdrawing dole from 16 and 17 year olds, amounting to no more than economic conscription.

Labour must give a clear commitment to maintain dole

money for school leavers, but also tackle the abuses on YTS with proper trade union supervision of health and safety, and the training content of the scheme, to ensure that trainees are not used just as dogbodies. But above all the Labour Party must introduce trade union rates of pay for the job undertaken, which would more than double the existing paltry allowance.

Such a commitment would win Labour support from wide sections of the 6.2 million young voters and their parents.

Abolish poverty wages

SINCE THE Tories came to power in 1979 they have launched a major onslaught on youth wages. While the Tories and their rich friends have lined their pockets youth have been driven into poverty. It is estimated that at least 60 per cent of youth earn poverty wages.

The *Guardian* recently commented on a visit to the Victoria Jobcentre where "domestic service, thought long and happily

dead is making a creeping comeback. Nobody, at least not yet, dares advertise for scullery maids, but there is a clutch of cards seeking 'live in domestics' at £40 a week, or 'Friday persons'—a clever translation of dogbody not clever enough to disguise the poverty of wages."

The most cynical attack on youth wages by the Tories came with the 1986 Wages Act which abolished Wages Councils for young workers under the age of 21.

The Tories had complained that the Wages Councils had set artificially high levels of wages for youth and, as a consequence, acted as a block to more jobs. The Tories boasted that once the Wages Councils had been abolished, then an ex-

tra 50,000 to 100,000 jobs would be created.

Of course, the truth was far from this. Only 13,000 jobs were actually created, and 80 per cent of these were substitute jobs. That is, other workers were replaced by low paid youth.

But what were these artificially high wages the Tories prattled on about? Wages of £45 to £65 a week or £33 a week if you are a hairdresser!

The Tories clearly see youth as a battering ram against trade union won wages and conditions. Labour must prevent youth becoming a scab army, by implementing a national minimum wage of £120 to lift hundreds of thousands of young people out of the poverty trap.

Guaranteed job for all

SEVEN YEARS of Tory government has seen youth unemployment triple, the number of youth on YTS schemes go up enormously and even child labour become more regularly used during the school year.

75 per cent of school students that leave school to look for a

'proper' job end up on a Youth Training Scheme, and less than 50 per cent of those that stay the whole two years get a job at the end.

In one poll 90 per cent of young people asked said that they considered they had the right to a guaranteed job.

The talents of working class youth are being wasted under this economic system - young people are now seen as an endless supply of cheap labour by employers and bosses. Apprenticeship are so rare now that most young people do not make any attempt to get one.

If the commitment to a

guaranteed job for all school leavers was included in the Labour Party manifesto with a clear explanation of how it could be achieved, with a national minimum wage - young people would not just vote Labour, they would go out and fight for Labour in the coming general election.

Neil Kinnock has commented that this demand is "impossible". For the LPYS, it is impossible to imagine campaigning against youth unemployment, and demanding anything less than a guaranteed job from a Labour government.

Living grant for FE students

UNDER THE Tories, working class youth have been denied access to education and work. 90 per cent of further education students do not receive a grant. The majority of full-time FE students have to hold down part-time jobs in order to continue their studies. Many have to drop courses and study part-time whilst signing on.

The LPYS demand a £35 a week minimum grant for 16-18 year olds, as a step towards alleviating the financial pressures which prevent working class youth staying on in education. The Labour led NUS which represents 1.25 million students also calls for this demand. Just imagine the support that would be generated for Labour if

NUS, with all its resources, issued a 'vote Labour' campaign around the question of a minimum grant.

The call put forward by the Labour Party for a £27 a week grant or minimum training allowance would also be greeted with enthusiasm, and would be seen as a massive step forward—especially by those FE students who receive nothing at all.

The demand for a minimum training allowance would undermine the role of YTS as nothing more than a cheap labour scheme. Who would go onto YTS, when they can receive the same amount of money by entering further education and studying for subjects of their choice! It would encourage working class youth into the colleges to develop further skills.

The implementation of a minimum grant would cut across the Tories' long-term strategy, to limit entry to further education for the vast majority of working class youth, and to transform the FE colleges into

nothing more than massive YTS centres.

However, a recent statement by Neil Kinnock to drop this demand because it would 'cost too much' and replace it with a suggested means tested £11 a week minimum training allowance is entirely inadequate. It would not undermine YTS wages nor provide a real choice for youth. It would in fact be lower than the amount being called for by the SDP-Liberal Alliance.

It would cost approximately £728 million to give a £35 a week minimum grant to full time students. If the Tories can afford to spend £10 billion on the Trident programme alone, then the money exists to develop education.

The LPYS call on Labour's national executive to stand by their conference decision, to at least implement a £27 a week minimum training allowance immediately on the election of a Labour government, to provide a real choice for youth—education or a job.

Chile, France

Pope in Chile



Huge crowds turn anger on Pinochet

LIKE FATHER Gapon in the 1905 Russian revolution, the Pope found himself an accidental focal point for a new wave of combativity by the Chilean masses.

Father Gapon had organised trade unions, secretly controlled by the police, that were supposed to contain the rising militancy of the Russian workers in the early years of this century; but such was the mood that even the police-controlled unions were used by the workers to take their struggle forward.

Likewise, the Pope's overriding aim was to help US imperialism and the Chilean capitalist class to defuse the developing revolution in Chile. But his visit has had an opposite effect.

Such are the tensions in Chilean society that no amount of religious propaganda or window-dressing can blind the masses to the realities of life under the Pinochet dictatorship—crude as these methods were, to the point of comedy.

Mass protest

For instance, all the houses along the route travelled by the Pope were to be freshly painted—or at least the fronts! The sides and backs were left as before.

Then the occupants were presented with bills for the painting—£25 each. In areas like La Bandera, with 60 per cent unemployment, and even well-paid workers getting only £50-£60 per month, this is impossible to pay.

The explosive situation pervading Chile was reflected in every mass, audience and visit under-

taken by John Paul II. Far from heeding his appeals to reject "all forms of violence", every gathering became a mass protest and anti-government demonstration, usually ending in pitched battles with riot police and troops.

Nor were the Pope's appeals for "tolerance" and "respect for human rights" heeded by God's other self-proclaimed representative in La Moneda palace, Augusto Pinochet. Tear gas, chemically treated to burn the skin, was fired from the windowless black and white police vans (*zorillas*, or "skunks") which are used in every demonstration.

To coincide with the Pope's visit, local *tomas* (land seizures) were organised, including one by 300 families in Santa Monica. As usual the riot police attacked, in this case shooting dead one 22-year-old who was simply walking down the street.

Far from strengthening the influence of the Roman Catholic Church, the one-million-strong crowd in the O'Higgins Park, or the 85,000 who packed the National Stadium (the scene of mass murders of activists following Pinochet's 1973 coup), saw in these events an opportunity to express their opposition to the regime and flex their muscles—completely out-

"ONE DEAD from a bullet wound, two more shot, 600 injured in other ways and three days of uproar; not one of those Latin American football wars which make our hooligans look like choirboys, but the visit to Santiago de Chile by the Pope".



Chilean school students demonstrate against the regime.

side Vatican control.

In the National Stadium John Paul asked two rhetorical questions: "Do you reject riches and easy money?"

"Si!" replied the mass of youth. "Do you reject the idolatry of sex and pleasure?"

"No!" shouted the youth to an astonished Pope.

Barricades

It was during this rally that thousands of youth fought hand to hand with the police, even forcing them to retreat at one stage. In others, crucifixes were used to build burning barricades. Santiago's archbishop, Fresno, who has been used by the bourgeoisie to try and spearhead a transition in the past, has become a hated figure. He even lunched with Pinochet! As a result every mention of his name at the papal rallies brought a chorus of catcalls and booing.

According to a report by the Jesuits, less than 25 per cent of Chileans now go regularly to mass

and a mere 12 per cent take confession, compared with 30 per cent in 1980.

The regime itself is becoming ever more isolated and desperate, resorting to worsening repression and horrendous methods of torture

"... a prisoner was hung up for days and beaten until his nose and ears burst"

in an attempt to keep a lid on the struggle.

Hugo Pavez, a defence lawyer representing political prisoners in Santiago Central jail, reports: "prisoners have been subjected not

only to electricity, simulated shootings and being semi-drowned in excrement, but in at least one case a prisoner was hung up for days and beaten until his nose and ears burst. In one case rats were put inside the prisoner's clothing and his mouth".

Over 300 prisoners participated in a hunger strike during the recent period of protest against these conditions.

Such methods have not driven down the Chilean workers, and will not do so in the future. *Se va a caer* ("it's going to fall"), was the confident chant of workers and youth throughout the Pope's visit—censored out of the TV news coverage.

With a new upturn in the struggle, the possibility of Pinochet's fall is indeed posed again. But events will depend crucially on the role played by the workers' parties and their leadership.

More than ever, there is the need for a decisive programme and mobilisation by the Socialist and Communist parties to transform society.

France: Socialist ranks block right-wing move

"FRANCE'S SOCIALIST Party will signal a move to the right at its Congress in Lille", announced the *New Statesman* 3 April.

By George Collins

This gloomy prediction was thoroughly confounded by the 15,000 delegates, who headed off the right-wing leaders on two important issues:

- attempts to scrap the party's equivalent of Clause Four were defeated ("it will get through", said the *New Statesman*);
- moves to prepare a coalition with the 'centre' parties were blocked.

Speaker after speaker denounced the idea of an alliance with the 'centre' (to which, for example, the hated education minister Monory, author of recent attacks on youth, belongs). In the end, general secretary Jospin himself attacked the 'centre' as "a wing of the right" and spoke in favour of a new "union of the left"—i.e., alliance with the Communist Party, which has strong support in many working-class areas.

The congress took place against the background of a year of Chirac's right-wing government, with savage attacks on workers, youth and immigrants.

Eight million people in France now exist on less than £5 a day. A third of youth

have no jobs, and another third are on cheap labour schemes.

As a 'solution' to youth unemployment the government proposes *petits boulots* (part-time jobs). A minister gave an example on TV: delivering hot croissants to doorsteps!

Mobilisations

It is these conditions which produced the magnificent youth movement last December which halted the government in its tracks. Major strikes by railwaymen and teachers have followed, and continued mobilisations against the proposed 'nationalities code' to take away immigrant workers' rights.

Opposition to Thatcherite

policies is hardening among organised workers and youth in particular. Significantly, six local elections at the end of March showed a fall in support for the right-wing parties.

But the Socialist leadership, their eyes fixed on next year's presidential election, have been incapable of harnessing this mood with a bold alternative, spelling out the transformation of society that would be possible with socialist policies.

Like Kinnock, they fail to understand that a lack of commitment to real change is not the way to win elections in a period of capitalist decay. According to a recent opinion poll, 57 per cent of French voters see no difference between the Socialist

Party and the right! Is this the key to victory?

The delegates at Lille clearly thought otherwise. In the policies agreed, the emphasis fell on maintaining social welfare, curbing the brutal police, protecting immigrants' rights and restoring a wealth tax.

Marxist paper

While President Mitterand remains front runner for the Socialist candidature in the presidential election, followed by Rocard, leader of the main right-wing faction in the SP, it is striking that one-third of the 201-member National Executive Committee favoured neither of the two.

More and more activists see the need for a fighting

alternative to recover the ground lost during the five years of cuts and austerity imposed by the Socialist government of 1981-86. Three thousand copies of a broadsheet by *L'Avance Socialiste*, French Marxist paper, were sold at a rally after the congress and widely discussed among delegates.

The experience of renewed attacks by the Chirac government, renewed fightbacks, the hardening mood of the activists and the equivocation of the Socialist leadership, combined with consistent explanation of the Marxist alternative, will prepare the ground for new upheavals even greater than the struggles of December and January.

Explosive mood in Spain

SPAIN IS currently living through the greatest strike wave in recent history.

Last week, in spite of attempts by the trade union leaders to split up the movement, there were more than one million workers on strike. More hours were lost in strikes in the first two months of this year than in the whole of 1986.

In particular, it is the young workers who are the driving force.

The extraordinary mood which has developed among the Spanish working class has been most clearly expressed in the events in Reinosa, the small town in Santander province where the threatened closure of the steel works has produced a semi-insurrectionary situation.

The struggle in Reinosa is still not finished. Last Friday 20,000 workers demonstrated in support of the Reinosa workers—the biggest demonstration in the history of Santander, which has long been renowned for its right-wing traditions.

Home-made arms

The mood in the village remains explosive. Reinosa has practically been occupied by the Civil Guard (paramilitary police), while workers have been manufacturing home-made arms such as steel catapults.

A worker recently mentioned to me that all the nuts and bolts from the steel factory have disappeared.

Events at Reinosa, however, are only the tip of a very large iceberg of social discontent. Not only the working class, but many other layers have been affected by the mood—students, doctors, teachers, farm workers, small farmers and others.

For example, in the town of Valdetenas the other day, peasants driving tractors surrounded the Civil Guards and, in the words of one of the participants, "we hunted them down like rabbits".

Women are now prominently involved in the movement. In a working-class district of Madrid a week ago there was a mass demonstration of 10,000, organised mainly by women, demanding action to curb

From our correspondent in Spain

the trade in drugs. This rank-and-file movement has undoubtedly pushed the government into rounding up some of the pushers.

But this police action was little more than a publicity stunt, to draw attention away from the explosive situation on the labour front.

A further indication of the sweep of the movement has been the actions by villagers in a number of small towns in Salamanca against the threat to set up a nuclear laboratory in the area, which led again to a virtually insurrectionary situation.

The vice-president of the regional parliament (a member of the Socialist Party) was kidnapped and held by the villagers until he was forcibly released by the Civil Guards. The coordinating committee which organised this movement is made up mainly of mayors who belong to the Socialist Party!

Even the police—municipal police, traffic wardens and others—have been on strike. Now, most significantly, even riot police in Murcia have demonstrated and threatened to take strike action!

The riot police are the government's strike-breaking force, who are sent from one region to another to deal with workers' struggles. Now, with disputes erupting all over the country, they are protesting against the length of time they are being forced to spend away from home, and are demanding higher wages!

Unfortunately this enormous movement is being systematically thwarted by the scandalous behaviour of the union leadership, particularly that of the Workers' Commissions (CCOO), with their policy of splitting up the movement and calling strikes in different provinces on different days.

It is the role of the union leaders which has enabled the PSOE (Socialist) government to take a tough line and

- One million workers on strike last week.
- Marxists call local general strike in Basque country.
- Riot police threaten to go on strike.



persist in trying to limit wage increases to 5 per cent—when the private employers themselves have already been forced in many cases to give increases of up to ten per cent.

In one small factory in Alava, for example, the employers intended to inflict a wage cut of 25 per cent. But as a result of the resistance of the workers, under the Marxist leadership of the UST union, they ended up paying a 10 per cent increase!

Strike fund

The Asturian mine-workers, after 54 days on unofficial strike, have returned to work because in many cases their money has run out. Significantly, however, they have gone back with the intention of organising a strike fund.

Nothing has been resolved, and it is clear that these miners will come out again.

It is a symptom of the mood that over 800 copies of the marxist paper *Nuevo Claridad* were sold in the mining areas.

The situation now is similar to that which Trotsky described in Spain in 1930—a whole series of spontaneous strikes taking place all over the country. But the decisive factor is the absence of a conscious leadership which would be able to unite the workers in a single struggle against the right-wing policies of the PSOE government.

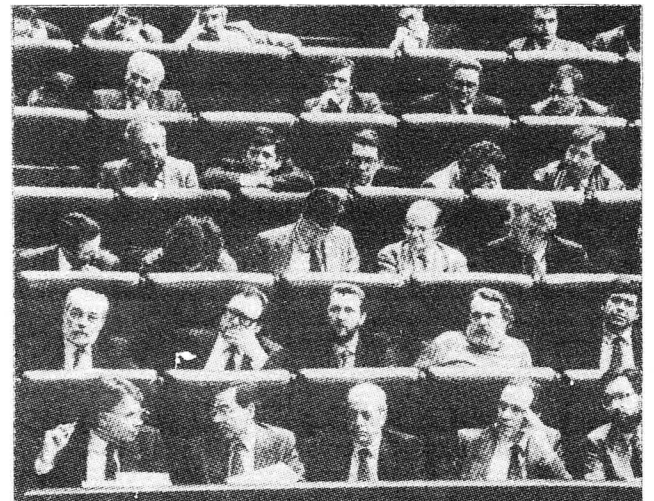
Taking advantage of the weakness at the top, the government is planning to introduce a law to limit strikes and demonstrations.

With the movement still snowballing, the power is there to defeat this and all other attacks, provided it is organised and directed.

Against this background the Marxist tendency, supporters of the paper *Nuevo Claridad*, is conducting persistent agitation around the slogan of a 24-hour general strike. This has already borne fruit in the Basque country where the UST union (led by supporters of *Nuevo Claridad*) have called a general strike in the Ayala valley for Tuesday 14 April, conducting a classical policy of a united front, attempting to draw all union organisations into the struggle.

This valley, like Reinosa, is facing the threat of total destruction as a result of the 'restructuring' of the steel industry which is being carried out by the Socialist government.

The main thrust has been



Top: building workers demonstrate, while socialist MPs, isolated from the streets, plan an anti-strike law. (above).

to unite the different factory committees in the area into one united coordinating committee of the factories on strike. At the first meeting of the coordinating committee only six delegates turned up, but at the second meeting there were 60 delegates, representing all the factories concerned.

Mass demonstration

Women, youth and the small shopkeepers are also represented on the coordinating committee. This last weekend cars with megaphones were sent to all the industrial villages of the area, calling for mass meetings and pickets to shut down the entire valley, culminating in a mass demonstration in the evening.

The Marxists intend to use this strike as an example, to send delegates from the strike committee to visit every other area of the Basque Country and appeal for

a regional general strike in May. This, in turn, would act as a springboard for the demand for a general strike throughout the whole of Spain.

The Marxists, basing themselves on the growing groundswell of discontent among the ranks of the CCOO as well as the UGT (Socialist trade union federation) against the conduct of their leadership, have also taken the initiative of establishing an oppositional current called the Trade Union Left, which will be launched formally at the beginning of May.

There is no doubt that this idea will find a ready echo among tens of thousands of workers. As with the school students' struggle, it will mark a new turning point in the influence of the Marxist tendency in the Spanish labour movement, and prepare the way for a mass Marxist wing, not only in the UGT and CCOO, but also in the Socialist Party.



Commuters queue for buses during last week's metro strike in Madrid.

Profiting from childbirth

Dear Comrades,

A month ago I gave birth at the Princess Mary's Maternity Hospital in Newcastle. Imagine my amazement when the local TV announced that this hospital is one of 400 nationally selling the mothers' placentae to the multi-national French company Institut Merieux.

The placentae are being sold for about 25p each, without the mothers being aware of the situation. In the past the placenta was regarded as waste material and disposed of, now they are used by Merieux in the manufacture of blood products.

Shona Gill, COHSE branch secretary

covering the hospital, at first didn't believe the story: "It makes you wonder what else is going on... who draws the line and where does it stop".

Merieux are now awaiting a licence to be granted by the Department of Health so they can offer their products for sale to the NHS.

The next Labour government must nationalise the pharmaceutical industry to end companies making a profit out of childbirth.

Yours fraternally
Jane Harker
Wallsend Labour Party
Young Socialists

Prescription problem

Dear Comrades,

After the recent rise in prescription charges to £2.40 per item, I wanted to find out who was entitled to free prescriptions.

The main Post Office seemed to be the easiest place to go to pick up a leaflet. But when I got there I found prominently displayed leaflets advertising double-glazing, fitted bedrooms, bathrooms and kitchens, electric showers, insurance,

catalogues, rubber stamps, 'Action for jobs' etc.

I was about to leave when I noticed a small rack of leaflets, almost hidden, containing the information I required.

It seems the Post Office is more interested in making money than providing information to those who have none.

Yours fraternally
John Dale
Bolsover Labour Party

Double standards

Dear Comrades,

A thought struck me at work after reading reports about the House of Lords decision to debar the Liverpool councillors. The judge claimed that the councillors were responsible for losing £106,000 in interest payments on the money which would have been collected from ratepayers.

However, many big firms only pay their rates when they receive a court summons which could be three months after their rates are due.

Even then the courts treat big firms in a different way to ordinary workers. A firm summoned to court with a rate demand of £30,000 pays the same costs as a person who owes £10 on their house. Of course the interest that you can earn on £30,000 is a lot higher than the couple of quid that the court costs come to.

Why aren't these big firms sued for loss of interest to the council? Unless this is another example of the bias of the bosses' courts.

Yours fraternally
A rates clerk

Letters

Send us your views, comments or criticism.

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

Tories lock up AIDS victims

Dear Comrades,

Last week the Tories gave all 25,000 magistrates new powers to lock up in hospitals anyone carrying AIDS antibodies 'suspected' of spreading the disease. At the moment these powers are being directed against prostitutes.

The new powers will actually contribute to the spread of AIDS as people in high risk groups will be afraid to come forward for testing or treatment.

The hypocrisy of the Tories was shown in the same week by the fact that they refused funding for a ward to treat people with AIDS in Brighton.

The Tories and the bosses who are

destroying our health service are quite happy to leave research to private industry. As the chairman of the La Roche pharmaceutical giant recently put it: "AIDS is not a rheumatism or arthritis" meaning that it was not financially viable to put sufficient money into research for a cure until the 'market' was sufficiently large.

This is the sickening depths of capitalism's 'response' to this potentially massive threat to workers' health.

Yours fraternally
Colin Coffey
Brighton Labour Party
Young Socialists

Fluoride danger ignored

Dear Comrades,

At a recent meeting of Wirral Health Authority, it was agreed in principle to seek to have fluoride added to the water supply of the Wirral.

When one authority member questioned the necessity of having a chemical added to the water supply, he was told that there were already 14

chemicals in the water, surely one more would make no difference!

From a public health point of view fluoride is dangerous, considering evidence that it is a cumulative poison which can lead to complications in bones, kidneys, thyroid, reproductive organs, the liver and can even cause cancer. Ironically, it can

even damage children's teeth.

The unelected Wirral Health Authority has ignored evidence that has convinced a dozen or more countries including Austria, Denmark, France, Greece and West Germany to ban fluoride.

Yours fraternally
Chris Stonehouse
Wirral hospital worker

Can boxing be made safe?

Dear Comrades,

People everywhere will be saddened at the tragic death of schoolboy boxer Joseph Stricklen aged 15. This has brought about calls from the British Medical Association for boxing to be banned.

I would go along with Joseph's parents that boxing should not be banned but made safer. For example, in the USA it is compulsory for amateurs to wear head gear, yet in Britain ABA clubs struggle to survive with raffles and promotions just to buy gloves, vests, shorts etc.

To ban boxing would provide fertile ground for unscrupulous unlicensed promotions to take place with little or no medical aid leading to yet more deaths.

Yours fraternally, Malcolm Richardson
West Leeds Labour Party

began by staging unlicensed bouts.

The success and big money attained by pro-boxers points a way out for young working class men anxious to avoid YTS, mugging or drugs as an existence in Britain. The Benny Lynch's, John Conteh's, Randy Turpin's and Lloyd Honeghan's, as well as most of the rest and the best, all come from deprived backgrounds.

Young men shouldn't have to box for a living because there is nothing else for them. We have to change society to embrace working class aspirations and so the proper place is made for true socialist sport to grow. Boxing should not find a place in that society.

Yours fraternally
Bob Stothard
London (TGWU)

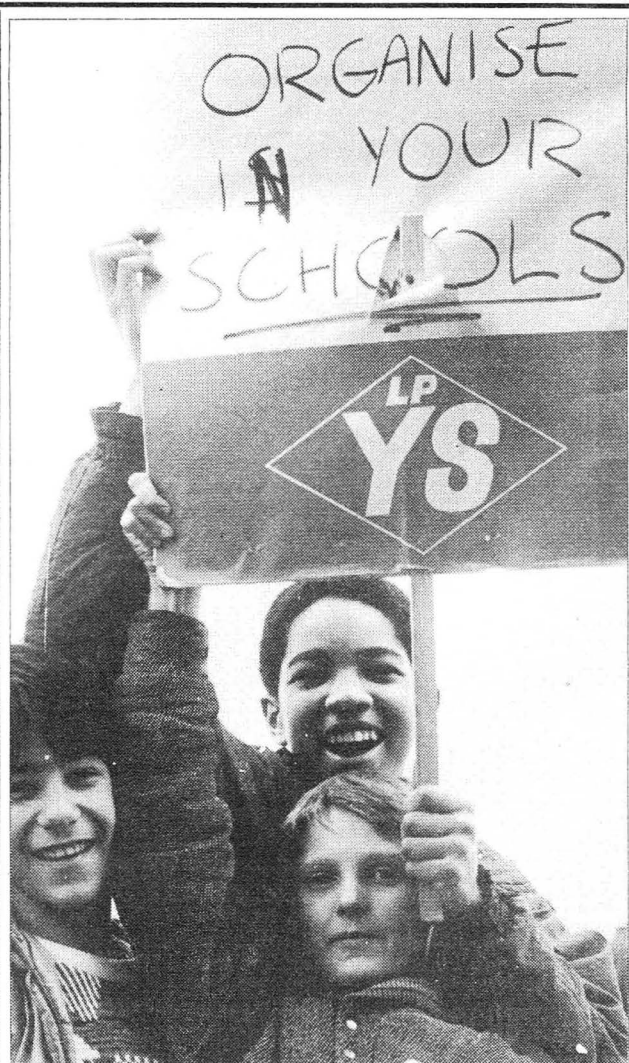
Dear Comrades,

Malcolm Richardson's letter concerning the tragic and unnecessary death of 15 year old Joseph Stricklen raises two interesting points:

Malcolm asserts that the wearing of head guards as is mandatory in American amateur contests, would afford some protection for boxers. This is medically

proven as untrue. The brain shakes like a jelly when the head is struck. Head guards can actually increase the damage by 'containing' the free movement of the head.

Unlicensed events with or without adequate medical supervision do occur in Britain. Well known promoter Frank Warren, now a part of the boxing establishment,



We stand by our teachers

Dear Comrades,

As a pupil in a London school, I will be affected by the redeployment of teachers. Specialized teachers will be taken out of my school to fill spaces in other schools. Then classes would be larger and exams would be affected.

We stand by the teachers in opposition to the government and ILEA. I sympathise with pupils who are in a school that hasn't got enough teachers but ILEA could take teachers off the dole.

Yours sincerely
A school student from Southwark aged 12

Dear Comrades,

At last, after 12 years the history rooms in our school have finally been redecorated! Why? Recently the 'temporary' huts which we've had in constant use for the past 30 years have burnt down and caused extensive smoke damage to some of the rooms in the main building.

Not only were these huts old, cold and very leaky but also built using asbestos. Maybe we could get the rest of the school repainted if we set fire to the other huts with asbestos roofing.

Yours fraternally Audra Muxlow Lincoln

Building homes— to be flattened

Dear Comrades,

I've just been reading a magazine about a campaign to build a new village complete with "domestic, communal and residential buildings".

"The forms of construction have been chosen to provide robust structures... external walls of brick or coloured concrete blocks... doors, windows secured with robust lockable doors or shutters... drainage, water, electricity and heating will be provided".

The article stresses the need to "conserve and pro-

tect the environment" so the village campaigners promise to plant "shrubs and trees".

Could this be the home you've been looking for, the house of your dreams? Well I've some bad news for you... the magazine is *Soldier*, the campaigners are the British Army. The place is Salisbury Plain, and the village is not for living in, merely for the odd battalion to attack and defend over and over again while on exercise!

Yours fraternally
Bob Harker
Gateshead East
Labour Party

Criticism bashing

Dear Comrades,

My brother used to think *Militant* was too fond of 'police bashing'. He wrote a letter to the paper about this, and was going to post it. Next day, he was doing his window-cleaning round, carrying his bag and ladders. Suddenly CID members jumped him, rammed him up against a wall, searched and questioned him. Then they told him: "On your way".

I'm not sure what he did with his letter!

Yours fraternally
Roy Wilding
Wirral

Suicide

Dear Comrades,

The 'hang 'em and flog 'em' brigade are in season once again in the Commons.

However, these 'drastic' measures will not be necessary in Staffordshire.

Apparently in 1984-85 suicides in Staffs rose by 17.6 per cent compared to a national increase of 2.2 per cent.

At this rate, if we had another five years of Tory government, there would be very few ordinary people left in Staffordshire to even 'flog', let alone hang.

Yours fraternally
Andy Bentley
Stoke South

Cholesterol killer

Dear Comrades,

While standing at the bus stop recently, I overheard a conversation between two pensioners about their free EEC dairy produce: "I think the giving away of this EEC butter, cheese and milk is a plot by Maggie Thatcher to kill us off by giving us too much cholesterol!"

Yours fraternally
Bob Young
Sunderland

In Defence of October

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EETPU general secretary election

THE ELECTRICAL and plumbing union (EETPU) holds a general secretary election this year. The two candidates are current general secretary Eric Hammond and rank and file member and Fleet Street worker, John Aitkin.

Our members are under attack on all fronts. The Tories' decimation of industry has hit employment drastically and the bosses are using the opportunity to try to drive down wages and conditions.

Unfortunately we are also suffering from the activities of our own union leaders.

The defeat of the print unions at Wapping would not have been possible without the scabbing role of the EETPU leadership in collusion with Murdoch.

They have signed a series of 'no strike' agreements, the results of which are just beginning to emerge. Hitachi in South Wales have decided that Christmas will be an ordinary working day; no hot drinks for workers in cold weather; intimidation and victimisations.

The signing of these deals was an attempt by the bureaucracy to accommodate themselves and the workforce to the employers. It was in direct conflict with the 1983 Biennial Delegate

Conference decision that 'Conference believes that the basic right to strike is a most cherished trade union right which must never be negotiated (away)'.

Over the years we have had the bitter experience of branch after branch being closed down and others merged or pruned, leaving many members impossible distances to travel to meetings. All this has been done without any consultation with the membership.

Many branches in the past elected their own leadership. Most now have appointed full time officials put in over their heads.

Five years ago the London contracting branch was born out of a number of bitterly fought closures. At the inaugural meeting the full time officials closed the meeting down when the members challenged an imposed branch leadership and their attempt to ban visitors from the meeting (against the rule book).

Van loads of police were

called. That 'branch' has since been run by an appointed stooge industrial committee. News is that the branch is to be formally reopened this month. All the 12,000 to 15,000 members are to be informed by post.

But already head office have announced in advance an appointed leadership for the next year and that no visitors are to be allowed in.

Disastrous

The contracting section face a disastrous situation, with '714s', basically self employed, lump labour, being taken on by the employers to undermine organised shops. Yet the activities of full time officers both internally and in their behaviour on the jobs play directly into the hands of the employers.

Over the years many members have been hauled up before the disciplinary body of the union. Usually there has been flimsy evidence, their real crime has been challenging the leadership.

On virtually every occasion they have been found guilty. It is possible to go to the appeals panel but they are the same people who found the member guilty in the first place.

Militant supporters are now barred from being sent as union delegates to local Labour Parties. Communist Party members have been barred from holding any union office for over twenty years. The leadership have for years blatantly whipped up red scares, trying to label the left as wreckers and saboteurs.

The reality is quite different. Even before, from the open hostility of Hammond and Co to the miners' struggle and the scabbing at Wapping, we had the spectacle of then NEC member Hammond riding on a scab coach through the Isle of Grain picket line in 1980.

He has added to that triumph by parading himself around the Confederation of British Industry conference, even applying for the EETPU to join! That was followed up recently by the sight of him speaking at the Institute of Directors rally alongside Thatcher.

The leadership's political direction is revealed in the inviting of Norman Tebbit to

open the union's new technology centre at Cudham Hall.

Former general secretary Frank Chapple, now Lord Chapple of Hoxton was the first to sign the Limehouse Declaration in support of the SDP renegades from the Labour Party. The union now employs ex-Labour MP John Grant, who went over to the SDP, as our 'Political Officer'.

It has been very noticeable that all sorts of dubious EETPU delegates have suddenly turned up in constituency Labour Parties when the left has looked like winning positions.

This shows what the 'new realism' of the EETPU leadership, which Hammond represents, stands for. It has been gathering momentum for twenty five years but is now recognised by many workers as utterly reactionary, deliberately trampling on even basic trade unionism.

Left candidate John Aitkin, who stood for general secretary in 1982 and for the NEC represents the real interests of the members.

At Ford Dagenham, where he was a lay member on the Ford Joint National Negotiating Committee and now in Fleet Street he has a consistent record of fighting for the members.

To date he has over 35 branches endorsing him, including a unanimous vote at the London Press branch. The growing discontent which exists amongst ordinary EETPU members must be turned into support for John Aitkin.

Discussion around all the issues must take place at every workplace and branch. Ensure all sections are fully in the picture to combat the mass media campaign for Hammond.

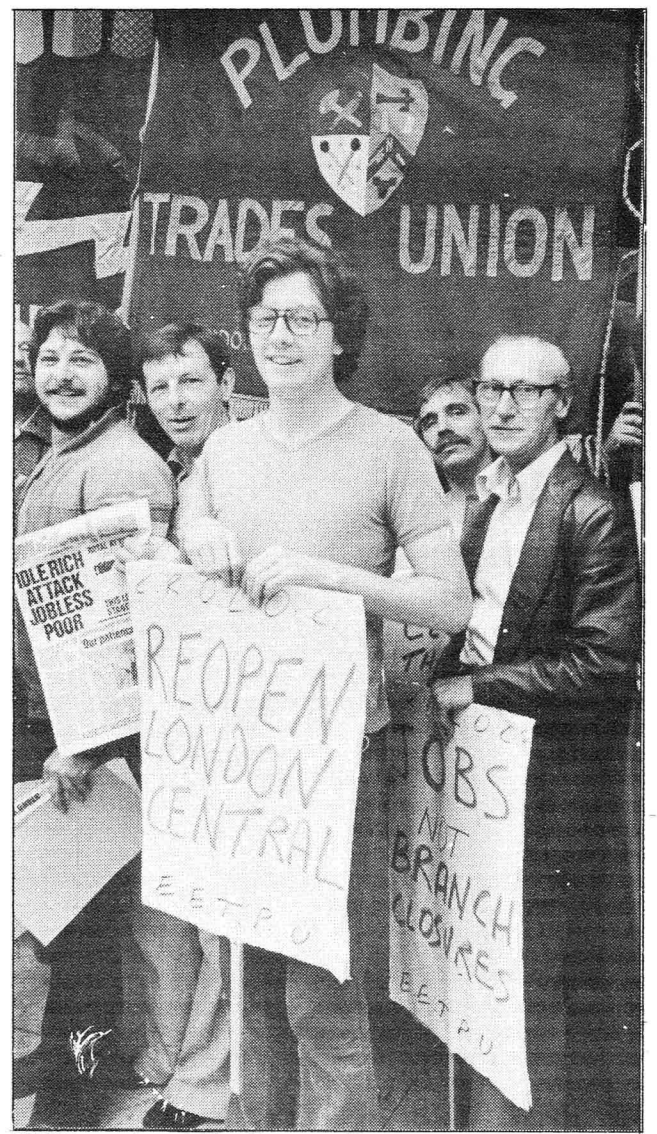
A big vote here would give the membership a tremendous boost after so many years of disappointments. But part of the campaign must also be to build a strong Broad Left.

We need to provide a solid basis for a left general secretary who would be at odds with a hostile executive and to continue the fight for the complete transformation of the union.

By an EETPU member

Militant supporters stand for:

- ★ election of all officials with the right of recall within the period of office.
- ★ no full time official to receive more than the average skilled wage plus necessary expenses.
- ★ conference decisions should be binding on the leadership.
- ★ end to bans, proscriptions and witch-hunts.
- ★ no agreements to be signed without full consultation with the workforce.
- ★ right of branches to elect their own officers and to communicate freely with other branches.



EETPU members lobby Congress House.

Lessons of Scottish occupations

THE CATERPILLAR workers at Tannochside are at the forefront of industrial struggles in Britain at the moment. COLIN FOX draws some key lessons of two previous Scottish occupations.

April sees the 15th anniversary of Upper Clyde Shipbuilders (UCS) victorious sit-in. In 1971-2 8,500 workers occupied four shipyards on the Clyde and inspired demonstrations of 100,000 plus two regional general strikes culminating in a famous victory.

Convenors Jimmy Reid (yes the same one who now pours out poison with the Daily Record) and Jimmy Airlie (now AEU national executive member) became famous overnight as a result of the role they played in the sit-in.

The lessons of 1971-2 are still of value today.

Tory Industry Minister John Davis attempted to end shipbuilding on the Clyde as part of a conscious economic strategy being pursued by the Heath government. Davis was quoted at the 1970 Tory party conference as saying:

"I will not bolster up or bail out companies where I can see no end to the process of propping them up... I will not accept involvement in an open-ended liability. To do so is to throw good money after bad and it's your money at that."

Two years later he was forced to capitulate as his "lame duck" strategy lay in tatters. The UCS sit-in not only resulted in hundreds of similar struggles by workers in defence of their jobs, but also helped turn the tide firmly against Heath. It became a focus of discontent for the entire working class to vent their hatred against the Tories.

During the 10 months of the sit-in there had been two Clydeside general strikes and

street demonstrations whose size had not been seen since the days of 'Red Clydeside' in the 1920s.

It was later disclosed that the decisive reason for Heath's climbdown was communication from the Chief Constable of Glasgow saying that he could not guarantee civil peace if the yards closed and that he would take no responsibility for the ensuing disorder.

Consequently 6,000 jobs were saved and the yards kept open in what turned out to be a momentous victory. The enormous support which the sit-in had was spearheaded by industrial solidarity action throughout Scotland. That has been the common feature of all successful occupations.

In 1981 200 women workers at Lee Jeans in Greenock were successful in the battle to save their jobs after occupying the factory. The enormous degree of support they got, particularly from the large industrial workplaces, played a decisive part in their victory. Shipyard workers at Yarrow in Glasgow, for example, threatened to strike if the law was used against the Greenock sit-in.

The Caterpillar occupation, unique perhaps in that it has occurred at a profit-making factory and also had the support of a Tory government, is as well supported as the others in terms of public sympathy.

The task of the labour movement is always to turn that support into physical industrial action and apply pressure on the bosses and their acolytes. Always remembering that under capitalism victories of whatever variety can only be temporary, before having to struggle again to keep what has been won. That is the history of workers' struggles and only socialism itself can end that need to fight once and for all.



Eric Hammond.

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.

○ **The Burden is Heavy:** video on the growth of the workers' movement in Zimbabwe, with important conclusions for all socialists. Cost of hire: £20 (£10 for YS branches/women's sections). Order from Zimbabwe Trade Unionists' Defence Campaign, PO Box 77, London E8 4TB.

○ **ANY READERS** interested in computers, with access to computers and/or modems who would be interested in a Marxist Computer Club, please contact Box No 3, 3/13 Hepscott Rd.

○ **Socialist Summer Camp** workers' education group. Saturday 8—Saturday 15 August, 1987. Bracelands campsite, Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire. Courses on: Marxist Economics, youth and the struggle for socialism, the Russian Revolution, USA, third world. Plus rallies, debates, discos, sports, crèche. Book your holiday now. Cost £40 (£75 for family booking). Brochure available from the end of Easter.

○ **MILITANT enamel Red Flag** badges. £1 each with SAE. Send to Mick Griffiths, 20 Trilby St, Wakefield, W Yorks. Tel. Wakefield, 375 022.

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○ **LABOUR Theory of Value** (Paul Storey). Set of three tapes. Why Marxism opposes feminism (Margaret Creear). £1.50, plus 25p postage, each order from World Socialist Books.

Industrial Reports

Liverpool hotel strike for trade union rights

THE STRIKE for trade union recognition at the Moat House hotel in Liverpool is in its second week.

The 24-hour picket to stop deliveries is continuing, with most being turned away.

One day the fire alarm was set off in the hotel and the firemen, who have been very supportive sent four fire engines, which the hotel will have to pay for.

Guests at the hotel have also shown their support by giving donations to the strike

fund and telling how appalling the conditions are inside.

One guest complained that the rooms were filthy and another said they intended to report the hotel to the health authority when they got home.

The hotel is being staffed by youngsters off the dole queue who have no training. Some are as young as fourteen.

How many people will be prepared to pay £75 per night for this kind of service?

This four-star hotel pays

its workers £62 for a 40-hour week.

One of the other reasons they came out on strike was management's behaviour. They have refused to give staff the Easter bank holiday or to pay extra for Sunday or bank holiday working.

Other Moat House hotels are unionised but the Liverpool management is refusing to recognise the TGWU. They want to keep hotel workers as casual staff on low wages.

By Anne Bannister



Picket of Moat House.

NUT victimises ILTA leaders

The mis-named 'Appeals Committee' of the National Union of Teachers has passed sentence on 51 members of the Inner London Divisional Council last Thursday, 9 April, the last day of term (not by accident).

Three long-standing members, including two ILTA officers, Dick North and John Esterton of the Lambeth Association have been thrown out of the union.

A further five ILTA officers have been suspended and banned from office for a year. These include Bernard Reagan, executive member for inner London.

The other 43 are severely reprimanded and suspended, pending the signing of an open ended undertaking.

These ominous McCarthyite developments, supported by the so-called 'Broad Left' (including members of the Communist Party) arise from the hugely successful ILTA strike against the Baker Bill on 13 January.

The national officer of the union convened a disciplinary hearing to try ILTA officers and council members for breach of

rule 8 (organising action without the prior approval of the executive).

The national disciplinary committee found ILTA guilty but only reprimanded us, given the inconsistency of the application of rule 8 in the past and its blatantly political application in this instance.

The National Officers would not accept this and thus decided to take it to an 'Appeals Committee'. Contrary to any idea of natural justice, this was an appeal by the prosecution to make a sentence more heavy!

Political attack

And who were the appeals committee? The rest of the executive! Those disciplined we are told, do not have even the right to challenge this decision even at annual conference!

The union members themselves, however, will demand the issue is raised. Here is clearly a carefully aimed political attack, just before conference, at the most organised point of resistance to the NUT leadership's strategy of capitulation in

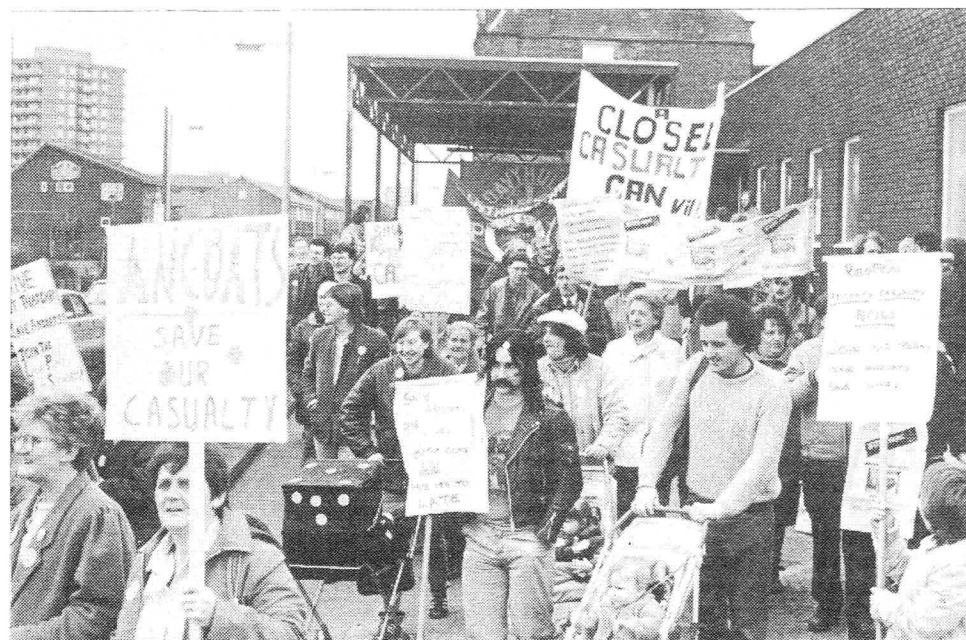
the pay campaign.

Ten out of eleven of the Inner London Associations are now controlled by the left—and it is the ILTA division, through its commitment to fighting Baker that had forced the national union to any sort of resistance at all.

It is this stance ILTA is being punished for. According to *New Society* it is an attack perpetrated in collusion with the Labour leadership of ILEA—at a time when this once 'left' authority is engaged in a wholesale attack on teachers' rights and working conditions (notably over redeployment).

This act by our union leadership at a time when ILTA members are under attack as never before will not be forgotten or forgiven in London schools. It must be turned over, otherwise it opens up the spectre of a witch-hunt nationally, with calamitous effects for union strength and organisation.

By Bob Sulatycki
(ILTA council, personal capacity)



Solidarity with Manchester hospital

THE OCCUPATION of Ancoats Casualty, Manchester, continues after 2 months.

The Manchester Royal Infirmary cannot cope with the extra patients—proving the need for Ancoats.

A 58,000 signature petition was presented to 10 Downing St. but they received no sympathy or help from Thatcher.

Support from local workplaces, Trade Unions and Labour Parties, YS and Womens sections continues but national support is also needed.

Cuts are being made in all Health Authorities in Greater Manchester. Rochdale District Health authority, however has refused to vote for the cuts.

Such a stand, alongside that of the An-

coats residents, needs to be built on, through the convening of a Greater Manchester Conference of all NHS Trade Unions, CHCs, and trade unions from private industry, whose health and lives are in danger through lack of decent health services.

This conference could decide on a strategy of action in and outside the NHS to force the Regional Health Authority to demand more cash for our NHS.

Donations and especially messages of support needed to Ancoats Action Group, Old Mill St, Ancoats, Manchester.

By Margaret Manning

Hackney schools meeting

"I WENT on demonstrations for you two years ago and now I'm tired. Tired of going to meetings, tired of organising petitions, tired of doing jumble sales to raise money for basic classroom needs. I shouldn't have to be here tonight. I should be at home, spending some time with my children."

These were the desperate words of a mother of five at a meeting in Hackney called by the Inner London Education Authority "to hear your views". She reflected the exasperation of many parents and teachers at the failure of ILEA to wage a serious fight in defence of London schools and the cuts it is now implementing.

She has children at a Hackney primary school due to lose three teachers. Her other children are at Kingsland school, due to lose 35 teachers in the proposed compulsory transfers of so-called "Teachers Above Authorised Numbers" (TAANS).

The mood of the meeting was electric, with over 300 parents, teachers and school students in attendance.

More than six thousands school children lost days off school in the first six months of the Autumn term. Since then nursery schools, infant and junior classes have been closed.

In meetings at County Hall and Divisional Office,

officials have been quick to blame the teachers. But speaker after speaker at the meeting put the blame on the Tories and those in ILEA prepared to implement Tory policies.

Of the ILEA representatives at the meeting only the Hackney South ILEA members had opposed TAANS and June Ward received an accordingly warm response.

Angry parents

The ILEA leader Frances Morrell and deputy leader Bernard Williams were continually barracked and interrupted, so angry were the parents. ILEA member Stephen Benn was slow handclapped when he tried to justify the authority's cuts.

It was clear from the speeches that ILEA is not properly recruiting and was missing out when other boroughs offered incentives. Supply teachers are not being paid properly.

One much-publicised Scottish teacher recruited in

January was still being being paid as an instructor, had not received displacement allowances and had no induction. She had only been able to find a one bedroom flat for her family of three.

Hackney councillor Lynne Faulkes pointed to the initiatives taken by the school students in opposition to redeployment of teachers. She demanded that ILEA support them, not discipline them.

Local parent, Louise Birch quoted ILEA's own figures which indicated a rise in the secondary school population of 4,500 over the next few years. She said 1,200 special needs students are to be placed in main stream schools in the next twelve months yet special needs teachers are supposed to be surplus.

She urged the meeting to join the campaign waged by the Hackney Association for Kids Education.

But above all she said, we have to: "do what is necessary to make sure ILEA has no doubt about the fact that Hackney parents and teachers will fight for their kids, education. ILEA must reverse the cuts and with our support force the government to fund education properly."

Miners against Wheeler plan

BRITISH COAL are rubbing their hands with glee. Their underhand schemes to 'Americanise' the coal industry have been aided and encouraged by the antics of prominent Labour and trade union leaders.

Nevertheless, the fighting spirit and anger of the miners, apparent at the national miners Broad Left, if channelled and directed, will upset their apple cart.

Six day production, continental shift working is the threat before ALL mineworkers. It is an essential part of the 'Wheeler Plan'—the Coal Board's programme for the industry. The implementation of this 'plan' will open the way for the eventual privatisation of the industry itself.

Yet Neil Kinnock and the South Wales Labour Party executive have taken the unprecedented step of interfering in the internal affairs of the NUM to give support to the Area leaders over six-day working at Margam.

George Wright of the TGWU has also got in the act to give the impression that his union would steal the jobs at Margam if the NUM refused to accept British Coal's blackmail.

However, no matter what labour movement dignitaries are wheeled out or threats uttered, the miners will not be so easily cajoled into giving up their hard-won rights and conditions.

Broad Left

The Broad Left conference considered six detailed resolutions on the subject of privatisation and the Wheeler Plan which will form the basis of a programme to fight on in the Areas.

However, the decision of the NUM national executive not to convene a special conference nor conduct a national ballot represents a setback in the campaign against six-day production. Nevertheless it still gives us the op-

portunity for an intensive campaign in the run-up to the NUM annual conference in July.

The motions passed at the Broad Left conference must be taken into the Areas. Every branch must discuss the issues. Every Area Council/conference must be inundated with motions and the Area delegation to annual conference mandated to reject six day production and all aspects of the Wheeler plan.

What the Broad Left stands for:

- ★ A four day week with no loss in pay or conditions
- ★ No extension of daily working hours
- ★ No continental shift patterns/oppose six day working
- ★ Consolidate bonus into basic rate
- ★ Salaried status for all NUM members
- ★ The return of a Labour government committed to socialist policies
- ★ A socialist plan of coal production as part of an overall integrated energy policy

Step up civil service action

CPSA AND SCPS members in Scotland have shown their opposition to seven years of Tory cuts in their living standards, jobs and services.

The misery and pressures of local DHSS and dole office staff was answered by the total closure of offices in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Dundee. Like their colleagues in Liverpool, Manchester and South Wales before them, these staff have given full support to the union's fight on pay and jobs.

This is a major development and a warning to the Tories of the pressure and feelings in the civil service.

The rolling programme of regional action now moves to the North East, Yorkshire and Cumbria and solid support will be forthcoming from members in these areas.

Customs and Excise staff in 14 Inland Clearance Depots are on selective strike. This will hit the export of goods. This action must be spread to all ICDs in order to stop exporters from diverting goods from one depot to another, weakening the action and placing at risk the support of the TGWU.

About 200 SCPS members working on plans for the computerisation of DHSS including the Fowler Social Security Act have also been brought out. Other selective and sporadic action is planned together with a national overtime ban, withdrawal of good will and a policy of non-cooperation.

The unions must implement these measures, particularly in the regions which have taken part in the rolling programme already.

Experience has shown, however, that although playing a valuable role in building up the mood the regional action should have been shortened in timescale, as *Militant* supporters alone on the NEC voted for.

Members are increasingly asking what happens next, particularly those who have taken part in the action. Thatcher can be defeated provided there is maximum unity and leadership in action.

National action is now vital to show the strength of the workers and unions. It would also act as a warning to the Tories that they had better settle with the civil servants.

By Danny Williamson
(CPSA branch secretary DNS Glasgow and NEC candidate)

The CPSA right wing leadership never wanted a strike. They are mechanically going through the motions for an all out strike ballot from the 18 May in the hope that an all out strike will be rejected so they can get off the hook, blame the rank and file, the Broad Left and national conference.

They then hope to follow that up with a long term pay system embracing the principles of regional pay and merit pay, the like of which have been accepted by the IPCS and IRSF leadership.

The SCPS leadership, who have played a better role, have no idea about what to do next. They favour a teachers type of action over months and years. This is impossible in the civil service.

All out strike stands the best chance of success. The leadership must be honest with the members. The regional and selective action must continue. It should, however, be shortened from the present six weeks. National strike action must be called and taken before the unions move to an all out strike ballot.

Ballot

That national strike action is vital to put pressure on the employer and build up the mood for a yes vote in the ballot. Unlike the right wing and some others who substitute their personal feelings for the mood of the rank and file *Militant* supporters believe that all out strike is the only strategy to beat Thatcher and win the claim.

A massive union recruitment drive must be undertaken and all the necessary steps taken to support such an unprecedented strike. The absence of all of this is a sign of the dishonesty of the right wing.

The Tories and their friends in the media have begun to step up their attacks on DHSS/DE staff and the union for 'hurting' the claimants.



Health minister Fowler and Princess Di getting a taste of DHSS workers feelings.

It is the Tories who have attacked the weaker sections of our class. They have created unemployment. They are responsible for the poverty. They have cut benefits and starved the service of adequate resources and reasonably paid staff. They have turned many areas of Britain into industrial deserts.

The rank and file of the civil service, their unions, the unemployed, pensioners and the poor are on the 'same side'. The leaflets produced by the unions must be distributed widely to claimants, particularly before action is taken in a region.

The Tories must not be allowed to use claimants and the potential strength of public opinion (including the opinions of trade unionists themselves) to defeat the unions.

Prior to the five days of action in each region there should be talks with Nalgo to agree that local authority social services staff carry out an agreed hardship payment

system and to ensure that they are not used to carry out 'means testing' of claimants.

In an all out strike it will be vital that the unions are seen to offer an emergency service. This will retain the support of claimants, the trade union movement and public opinion. This would immeasurably offset any danger that an emergency service will undermine the strike.

Emergency cover

It will strengthen the strike. Enough has already been seen in Liverpool, Manchester and Scotland to give an insight into how the capitalist class will ruthlessly use the "poor claimants and pensioners" as battering rams against the strike and pickets.

The right wing CPSA leadership has been forced into action.

A CPSA Broad Left leadership is vital to the success of the dispute. Picket lines must be visited and Broad Left public meetings held.

The Broad Left must provide the opportunity for rank and file discussion and intervention.

- ★ For national strike action
- ★ For all out strike
- ★ Doreen Purvis for president
- ★ John Macreadie for deputy general secretary
- ★ For a Broad Left NEC
- ★ Tories out and Labour to power on a socialist programme.

STOP PRESS: Members in Scotland who refused to hand write girocheques normally done by the striking computer centres have had their pay stopped. Most have walked out.

Liverpool Bemrose sackings

ON MONDAY, 6 April, the management at Eric Bemrose, Merseyside's largest printers and part of News International (NI), Rupert Murdoch's giant printing conglomerate, announced their intention to sack 771 workers.

Justification for the redundancy proposals is the loss of the *Sunday Express Magazine* contract which expires in June and the failure to find work to plug the "very large hole" which the Express' departure will leave.

This is extraordinary reasoning coming from News International which is one of, if not the biggest printing combine in the Western world.

It has recently built up its share of the printing and publishing industry in Australia to where it now controls in excess of 60 per cent.

In Britain he owns and controls both financially and editorially the *Sun*, *News of the World*, *The Times* and the *Sunday Times* as well as the various supplements.

In addition he has sucked into his web a network of printing and publishing companies, among them Trader, Times Books, Reuter, Festival Records, Satellite TV etc With this kind of clout it is incredible that he can claim no work is

By a Militant reporter

available for Bemrose.

The duplicity of NI is revealed by the placing of the *Sunday Times* colour supplement with a Bradford based company Watmough's and placing some of the job abroad with a 'European' company.

Cynicism

Bemrose with some additional investment could have handled the magazine thus having more than enough work to keep the entire workforce employed. The cynicism of the company was shown by the fact that the *Sunday Times* contract was confirmed with Watmough's on the same day that the redundancies were announced to the unions on the plant.

Bemrose as a company made a profit of £4.2 million last year halving a long-standing deficit, with a similar profit projected for 1986/7.

Its UK operations notched up a staggering profit of £117.5 million much of which is used to finance Murdoch's American acquisitions.

The chapels at Bemrose have declared their opposition to the company's decision, but without a doubt Murdoch's victory at Wapping weighs heavily on the consciousness of the workforce.

But they recognise that the choice is simple: to recognise Murdoch's apparent invincibility and accept his terms in total, or fight to retain jobs. In choosing to fight and retain jobs they are seeking the support of the unions nationally and internationally and political support from the Liverpool MPs.

Support has been expressed in a very peculiar way by the local Sogat officials, however.

Arnie Martin the secretary of the Sogat Merseyside branch has sent a letter to the management not demanding a withdrawal of the company decision but demanding that they do not enter into negotiations with Jimmy Wilson the Sogat FOC on the grounds that the Sogat NEC has withdrawn his union card after judging him guilty of organis-

ing opposition to Martin's sacking of 3 office girls in which Martin used the Tories' anti-trade union laws in the process. And they threaten to remove him as the Sogat FOC. Martin demands this in spite of Jim Wilson receiving 99.9 per cent support from his chapel to continue as their FOC.

National support

The company originally proposed to issue compulsory redundancy notices on Monday, 13 April. NGA branch secretary Ray Williams leading the negotiations has secured a further's week breathing space. That can now be used to mobilise support on a national scale to secure the future of the workforce.

Using the industrial strength of the unions which, in spite of the setbacks at Wapping and in the provincial news industry is still potentially very powerful, Murdoch can be brought to the negotiating table.

But a wider question is posed sharply for the trade union and labour movement: How to control



the print bosses' power. The answer is for these giant monopolies to be nationalised under the democratic control of the workers in the industry, with the wider trade union movement and the government having equal representation, in the management and control.

That should be the demand of the labour movement, with a commitment from the Labour leadership that a future Labour government will implement such a policy.

Militant

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NUT conference

United action to defend education

AEU threat to press freedom

Tories' deal for teachers

- ★ An imposed pay and conditions settlement.
- ★ The loss of negotiating rights.
- ★ The threat of a 'no strike' enforcement.
- ★ All financial responsibilities to be vested in headteachers, opening the door to privatisation.

THE DECISION of the Amalgamated Engineering Union (AEU) National Committee to refuse press facilities to *Militant's* reporter Martin Elvin, is one of the most shameful episodes in recent trade union history.

The general secretary of the National Union of Journalists (NUJ), Harry Conroy, responded with a telex asking AEU general secretary Gavin Laird "to urgently reconsider their decision not to allow the *Militant* newspaper's representative facilities to cover the National Committee meeting in Eastbourne... I sincerely hope that your National Committee will allow Mr Elvin to carry out his journalistic duties".

On Friday 10 April, members of the *Militant* NUJ chapel lobbied delegates and gave out a chapel statement protesting that a fellow chapel member and active trade unionist was being prevented from doing his job.

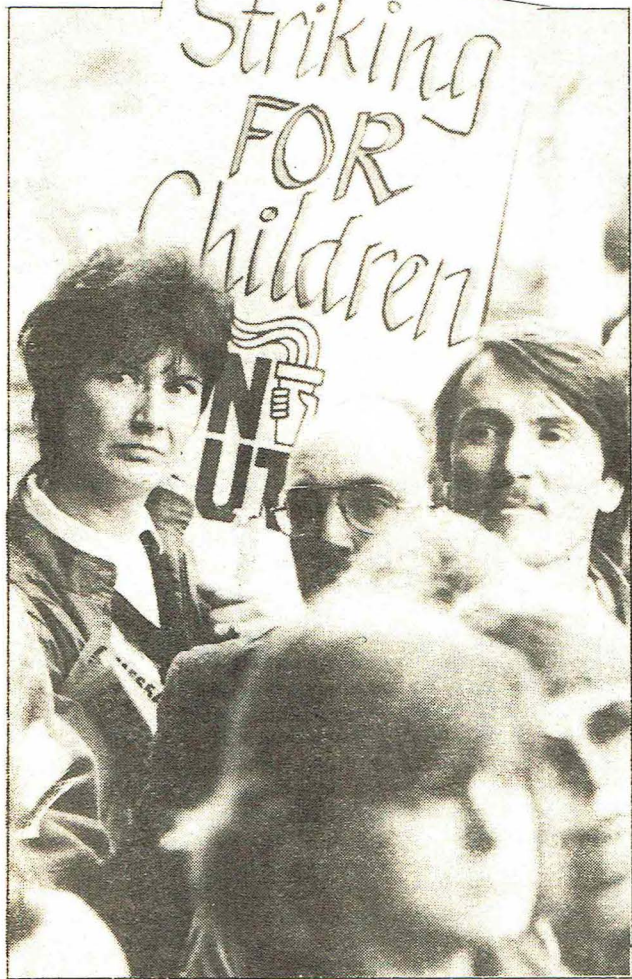
The following Monday they returned to lobby delegates and publicise their case to the journalists covering the visit of Neil Kinnock.

The National Committee is now over, but the issue has only just begun. The NUJ have already lodged a complaint with the TUC and the *Militant* chapel and our East London NUJ branch intend to see that this is pursued.

If this decision was intended to gag us or drive us away from the National Committee it failed. *Militant* intends to ensure that news of this disgraceful episode reverberates throughout the AEU to every member. They will find out how their representatives voted and can judge for themselves.

Attacks like this only serve to stiffen the resolve of *Militant* supporters to fight for socialism all the harder. We are confident that the AEU members generally will join with us in that struggle.

By Ken Smith
(FOC Militant Chapel NUJ)



THE TORY Education Secretary, Baker, has thrown down the gauntlet to the teaching unions. This year's National Union of Teachers conference, meeting at Eastbourne over Easter, will be the most decisive for many years.

Union delegates must ensure that the NUT gives a clear united response to Baker. The Tory package can only be effectively resisted by a joint campaign by the NUT and the NAS/UWT of escalating industrial action. This should be linked to a mass publicity campaign explaining the damaging educational and trade union implications of Baker's measures.

As the March strike showed, determined action evokes an enthusiastic response from the membership. But there is every indication that the belated recognition by the NUT leadership of the value of joint action, is merely a prelude to their attempt to virtually abandon the campaign. Their new 'strategy' will comprise working to rule (but on the basis of acceptance of Baker's new rules) and striking deals where possible with sympathetic local education authorities (LEAs).

By Bob Sulatycki
(NUT, West London Association)

They will argue that the members are tired of action. That there is a loss of members—which is true, but ignores the fact that in the most militant areas, like ILTA, the membership has increased.

The parents are no longer with us, they will claim. But with the campaign being persistently turned on and off, teachers, let alone parents, are bound to become confused, and some even hostile.

The NUT executive strategy, of signing the deal with the LEAs at ACAS, of 'being reasonable' and of conceding on conditions of service, has now completely backfired. Baker seized on the weakness of the NUT's position, to force through the changes in pay and conditions he always wanted. Baker is after a differen-

tiated and contractually bound workforce, devoid of industrial power.

The NUT conference represents the last chance to reverse a series of setbacks, initiated by the union leadership at ACAS, and to revive a real struggle for a decent pay rise, with no contractual strings and particularly 'no cover'.

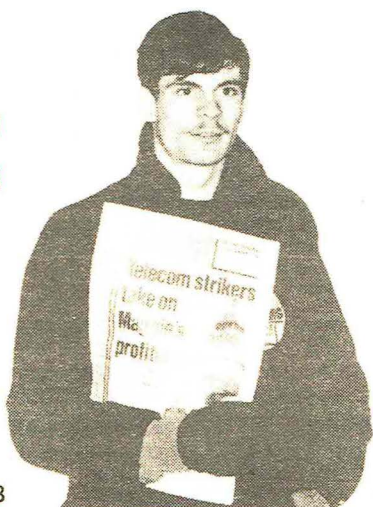
The whole issue of union democracy will therefore be a major theme running through the conference. Full and open discussion must be demanded on all union matters, for example the finances, and the right to discuss political issues in the union, by amending rule 2c. With the vital necessity of stopping another term for the Tories and all the damage that will mean for education, the conference must debate the establishment of a political fund.

Most important of all, conference must start the process that can realise the aspirations of all teaching union activists who participated in the joint action in March—a single, TUC-affiliated education union.

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

Donate

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

Sell

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