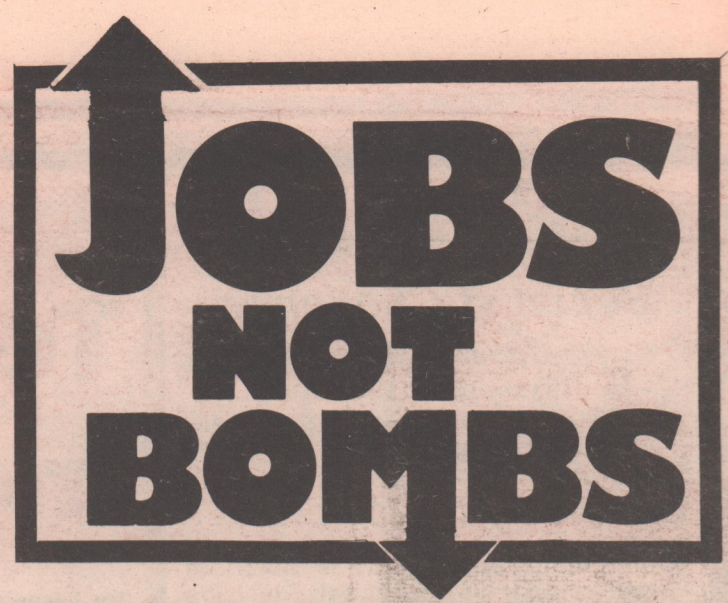


Socialist Challenge



FREEDOM JUSTICE

BLACKS TAKE THE STREETS

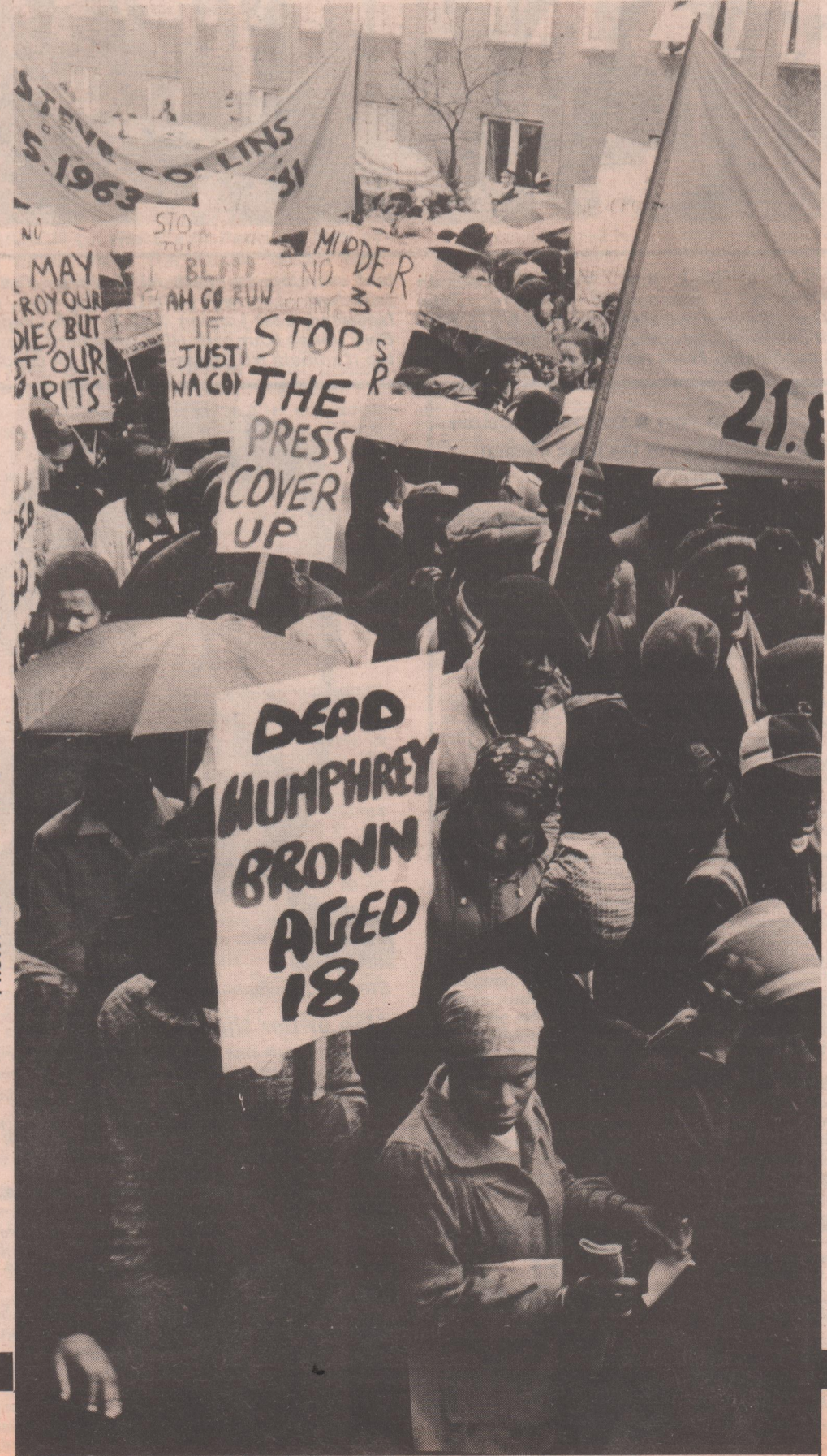


Photo: JOANNE O'BRIEN

FOR one and a half hours on Monday, black demonstrators took over the streets of rush-hour London.

In a display of black militancy rarely witnessed in London's West End, demonstrators walked, marched, and ran at will, with the police incapable of doing anything to stop them.

Amid chants of 'Freedom, Justice', the black demonstrators swept aside anything that came in their way, be it police horses, 'city gents', or jewellery stores.

This was the climax to a remarkable protest which began in South-east London just before noon and ended, six hours later, in the darkness of Hyde Park.

The 'Black Peoples Day of Action' was over police inaction and the media cover-up of the arson attack on a black party six weeks ago. Thirteen young blacks were murdered in the house in the New Cross district of London.

Between 10-15,000 men and women, mostly young and black, took part in the protest. The tone for the day was set right at the start when a black steward declared:

'There has never been a gathering like this of black people in the history of this country. March with pride brothers and sisters, march with dignity, we will not be diverted'.

The capture of Central London, page 3

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8 MARCH 1981

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Editorial

Socialist Challenge

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Cricket's racist crisis

'KEEP politics out of sport' is the cry of all those who have opposed the decision of the Guyanese government to kick out English cricketer Robin Jackman, because of his sporting links with South Africa.

Many of the people who support Jackman were the very ones urging a boycott of the Olympics in Moscow.

The truth is that it is South Africa which has brought politics into sport — not just by enforcing apartheid in South African sport, but by banning black English cricketer Basil D'Oliveira and by excluding Maori rugby players from the touring New Zealand side in 1971.

According to the Gleneagles agreement drawn up by the Commonwealth heads of state, member countries agreed to 'discourage' sporting links with South Africa.

The problem is that Britain hasn't done any such thing. The upper and middle class men (yes, they're all men) who run the cricket and rugby authorities in this country have winked at British players going to play for South African teams. Last year the British rugby Lions went on an official tour of South Africa. Sporting authorities claim that moves are being made to 'integrate' South African cricket; but when black youngsters can't even afford the basic equipment of the game, and the leading clubs are for whites only, integration is a myth, as the article on page 11 shows.

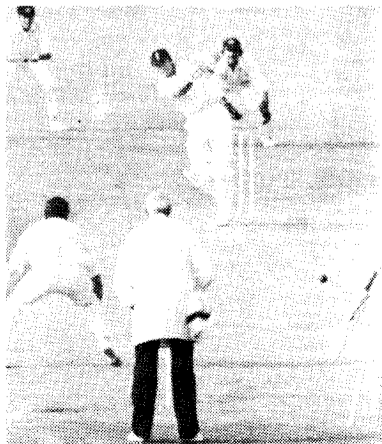
The tension between England and the West Indies is undoubtedly heightened by the fact that English teams today aren't just *beaten* by the West Indies, they are ruthlessly *smashed* into the ground — to the evident delight of Caribbean cricket lovers both in Britain and in the West Indies.

This is primarily because of the extremely fast, short-pitched bowling which wizzes round the English batsmen's heads. Cricket traditionalists call this 'unsporting' and 'intimidatory'. The irony is that these tactics were invented in the 1930s by the aristocratic English captain Douglas Jardine, to try to curb another colonial the English couldn't deal with, Australian Don Bradman.

No one considered it 'unsporting' when English fast bowler Fred Trueman so furiously struck the Australian batsman Norman O'Neill around the chest and groin, that he deposited his breakfast on the Old Trafford pitch.

In 1981, as opposed to 1931 or 1951, all the best players in the world are black. If the cricket authorities want England to play them again, all they have to do is instruct English players not to go to South Africa.

If present results are anything to go by, the English team is probably breathing a massive sigh of relief at the prospect of not having to play the West Indies for some time to come.



Teachers' union fights its members, not the cuts

By Tessa van Gelderen

CUTS in education, teachers made redundant, a 15 per cent pay demand — these are the issues that should be the concern of the executive of the National Union of Teachers.

Yet it is preoccupied with suspending members and making them face disciplinary charges.

Crime

Their 'crime' was to support the strike against the cuts by council workers in Lambeth last month. Three of those suspended were candidates in the recent Inner London Teachers Association elections, and the others are officers of Lambeth Teachers' Association.

At the disciplinary hearing last Saturday, Stuart Holland, MP for Vauxhall, gave evidence on behalf of the Lambeth teachers. 'Unless education fought its own corner,' he told the hearing, 'it would be hit by the Tories' need to wring concessions following the successes of the miners and water workers.' The hearing continues.

Suspend

The 'Reinstate the ILTA Eight' campaign has been mobilising support in the labour movement. Tony Benn and Jo Richardson are among a number of MPs who are requesting that the charges be dropped and the members reinstated.

Support has also come from Ted Knight, leader of Lambeth council, as well as from members of Greater London Council. The president of the Greater London Association of Trades Councils (GLATC), Dennis Coles, and Tom Durkin of GLATC are giving support in their personal capacity.

Many more trade unionists and Labour Party members are protesting to the NUT executive.

The left-wing members who were standing in the ILTA elections came within a couple of hundred votes of



Photo: GM COOKSON (Socialist Challenge)

The ILTA 8. Back Row: Vanessa Wiseman (Lambeth NUT membership secretary), John Esterson (General secretary Lambeth NUT), Dick North (national executive, Lambeth treasurer and ILTA candidate). Front row: Jackie North (assistant secretary Lambeth NUT), Hilary Tarr (Vice president Lambeth NUT), Bernard Regan (secretary East London NUT & ILTA candidate), Gary Jones (Lambeth NUT president), Dave Picton (Lambeth NUT treasurer and ILTA candidate).

How not to run a union election

By kind permission of the Inner London Teachers Association

- Don't count the total votes cast.
- Do allow retired members to vote and to validate the votes.
- Do allow past presidents to count the votes, particularly the same people who ask the executive to suspend union members, three of whom should be candidates in the election.
- Do allow 370 of the votes not to be validated by a new system that has never been used before and that is not in the rule book.
- Do take three and a half days to count 5,000 votes.
- Do not allow a recount, which is 'custom and practice' for national elections when requested.

being elected. Not only were they suspended before the elections, but more than 300 votes were disallowed because membership certificates 'could not be found'.

The suspension of militants from a union is a serious matter at any time. But when such militants are in the front line of defending jobs, education and living standards, it's a green light for the employers to victimise them.

The NUT executive should be asked by the whole labour movement: Who are you fighting — the Tories who are trying to hold back living standards or those union members who are struggling to maintain them?

As Raj Ray, organising secretary of the Society of Immigrant Teachers, put it: 'It is simply extraordinary for the executive to suspend members for following union policy.'



Stewart MacLennan, CPSA militant

Also under threat...

AS the civil servants start their campaign of action for higher wages the Civil and Public Servants Association (CPSA) is busily engaged in... disciplinary proceedings against union militant, Stewart MacLennan.

He was charged with conduct 'detrimental to the association' following an alleged incident at a union school in St. Andrews last year.

The two right wing union officials bringing the charges, Charlie Elliott and Barry Reamsbottom, both have reasons for wanting to victimise MacLennan.

Elliott was shown to have links with Trueman, the bosses' front organisation in the unions, by the CPSA Broad Left when MacLennan was its secretary.

And both officials were ejected from a Scottish region social by MacLennan after gatecrashing at 3 o'clock in the morning, and refusing to pay on the grounds that the money was going to victimised civil servants in Brixton.

MacLennan told Socialist Challenge: 'I am confident that if an honest report is drawn up no further action will be taken against me. Then we can get down to fighting the real enemy — the Tories and their pay policy.'

Defend the ILTA 8

Public meeting, Friday 6 March, at 5.30pm

Polytechnic of Central London, Large lecture Theatre, 115 New Cavendish St, London W1

Speakers include Stewart MacLennan (CPSA) and Bernard Connolly (Steelworkers' Co-ventor)





Black People's Day of Action

'We'll bury our dead and then....'

By Geoff Bell

THE MARCH on the Black People's Day of Action began near the house which had been the target of the arson attack.

For over three hours on Monday the demonstrators made their way to London's city centre, walking on the pavements, on the streets, stopping outside work places and schools to pick up more protesters.

'We're on the move' was the message from the megaphones. 'This is the Black People's Day of Action, Babylon must fall.'

The atmosphere was at times like a carnival, at other times angry, but most of all there was a sense of confidence and enthusiasm that this time black people were organising, for themselves and by themselves, and that nothing would be allowed to get in their way.

The only gloomy faces were those of the police.

As the marchers, by now nearly 10,000 strong, approached the centre of London the excitement and militancy accelerated. 'Freedom, Justice' were the chants; 'I want to be in that number when the blacks go marching in' was one of the most popular choruses.

The placards gave the same message of determination: 'Come what may we are here to stay'; 'We'll bury our dead and then...'; 'New Cross burn, more people learn'; 'Let's turn the table, we know we are able'; 'White spirit is a petrol bomb'.

The first hint of trouble came in Blackfriars Road, an approach to the city centre. A West Indian cop appeared on the scene and became the target for a variety of abuse. He was eventually led away, limping, to a nearby hospital.

The police, who up until then had been keeping the lowest of low profiles, used the incident to try and impose some

authority. Outside the post office in Blackfriars Road a series of fights broke out: hand-to-hand, boot-to-boot fighting.

The police brought out their riot shields; missiles started to sail over them. The police retreated.

But it was not for long. At the entrance to Blackfriars Bridge the cops regrouped. Lines of cops occupied the entire road. It was an attempt to stop the march, an open provocation. But there was no way this march was going to be halted.

Here and there the police line was broken. Arrests were made, but some of those held by the police were rescued as scores of black youth descended on the cops who had dared to seize their brothers and sisters.

But still the police line held. That was until the lorry carrying musicians, singers, and drummers was called up. The lorry crashed through the police line and the entire wall of blue uniforms was breached.

A phalanx of black youth stormed through, and the police fell away, defeated.

The marchers now had Blackfriars Bridge to themselves. The chant 'Freedom, Freedom' became louder and louder — this time though it was not so much a demand, more a cry of celebration over the victory against

the police that had just been won.

The crowd rushed into Fleet Street. Individuals in the demonstration put their arms round each other, others waved clenched fists in the air; the songs and the chants increased in tempo.

The police were hardly to be seen. What few there were guarded strategic buildings — the offices of the right-wing press like the *Daily Express* and the *Daily Telegraph*.

A few other cops stood outside Attenborough's jewellery shop, half-way up Fleet St. The shop and the police became targets. Bottles and stones flew as a few black youth rushed the jewellers. 'We're just taking back our gold,' said one black youth.

The demonstrators continued, out of Fleet Street, along Holborn and on to Shaftesbury Avenue. Bands of youth started chanting 'We want Thatcher, we want Thatcher'.

But the march organisers had agreed with the police beforehand not to go near Westminster or Downing St. Under an ancient law demonstrations are not permitted within one mile of Westminster while parliament is in session.

The demonstrators continued to march, run and walk at will. Police horses were brushed onto the pavements, and the marchers occupied and controlled the entire length and breadth of London's most famous streets.

It was only when the march reached Regent Street that some semblance of police authority was reasserted.

As the march proceeded to Oxford Circus and up Cavendish Street and Wigmore Street a

series of battles with the police broke out. The most heated was in Wigmore St, where bottles fell like a hail storm on cops and horses. In none of these incidents did the police emerge victorious.

Eventually the marchers reached their destination, Hyde Park Corner. The demonstration had taken some six hours but like a triumphant army they got where they wanted to go in the end.

What happened on Monday in the centre of London was exceptional. It was a display of black militancy and black anger different to anything that had been seen before.

The confusion in the faces of the cops, and the fear in the faces of many of the richer, older white inhabitants of Central London testified to the uniqueness of the occasion.

It was about blacks going on the offensive.

As the placard put it: 'We are on the move'. The black rebellion against the racist, exploitative, unjust British system is under way. Long may it prosper.

This Saturday the National Front, whose supporters may well have been behind the New Cross arson attack, is planning to march in Deptford.

The Anti Nazi League is organising a counter-protest. Assemble 10.30am on 7 March at New Cross Gate station.



Chapple's delegates

FRANK Chapple, general secretary of the Electricians Union (EETPU), openly supports the Council for Social Democracy.

He doesn't think they should leave the Labour Party, but he 'understands' why they are. 'They're fed up with the hypocrisy, double-dealing and double-talk that go on in the Labour Party.'

Chapple could well be referring to the antics of his own union, EETPU branches are being 'encouraged' to affiliate to local Labour Parties and send along right-wing delegates. In fact, in case they are slow on the uptake branches are being affiliated and delegates appointed to GMCs by the union head office — often without the knowledge of the branch.

Rules

This practice is permitted by the EETPU's rules, and the union has a full-time official, Southwark councillor Bob Eadie, to carry out the task.

Bermondsey and Dulwich, in South London, have been made target areas no doubt because the left has recently gained a narrow majority in these constituencies.

Some of the EETPU delegates have jobs that scarcely qualify them for membership of the union. Southwark Labour group chief whip, Frank Brean, for example, owns and runs a local chemist shop, the chairperson of housing in Southwark, Charlie Sawyer, is the tenant

By Carol Turner
Labour councillor, Southwark

liaison officer for Lewisham council.

In the past two months, 14 new EETPU branches affiliations

have been renewed in this constituency.

A year ago delegates to the Dulwich GMC were 'approved' by the

Labour Party at regional level and accepted for the purpose of selecting the Greater London candidate. Now Bermondsey is reselecting its MP, the region has changed its mind and has 'frozen' the GMC. No new dele-

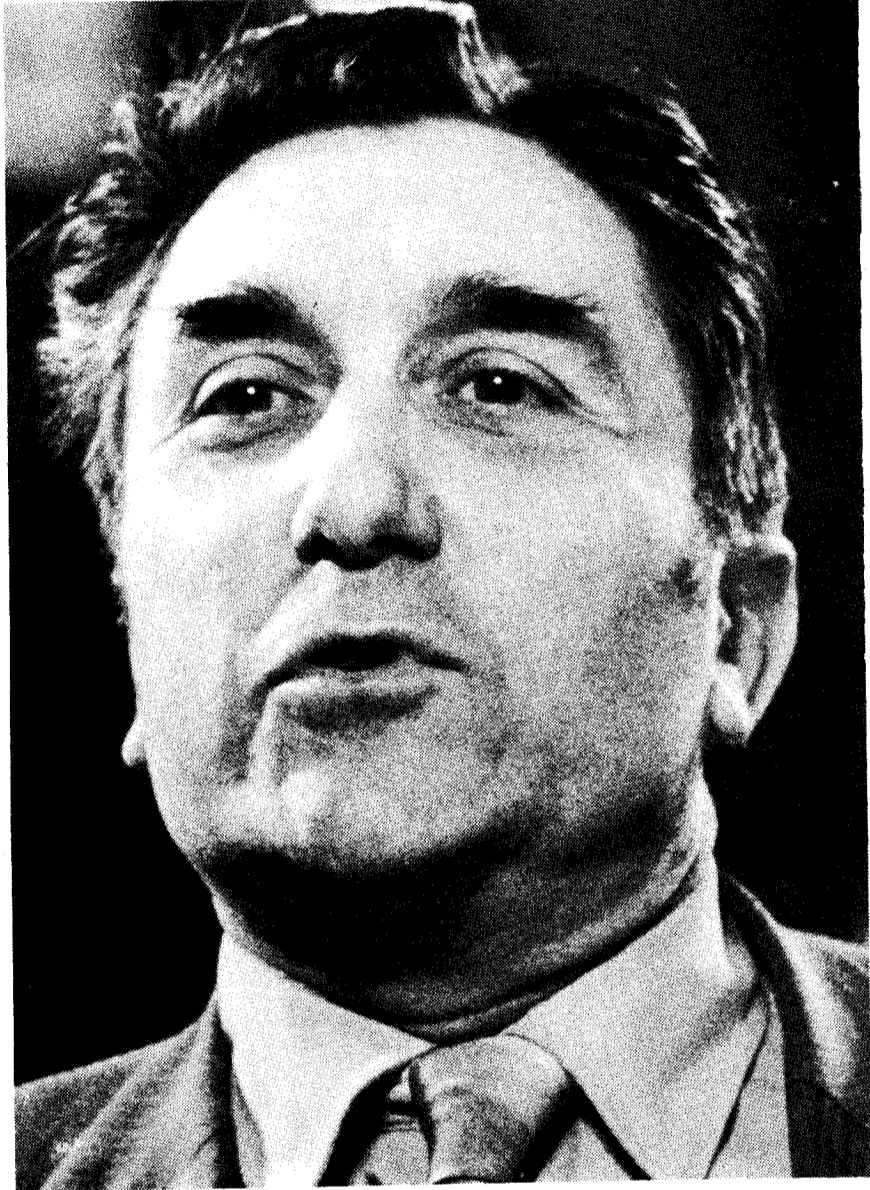
gates can be elected on to it.

Perhaps the regional committee discovered what the EETPU was up to?

In fact it was ward delegates who were disenfranchised, not those from the trade unions, thus leaving Frank Chapple's plans intact.

The EETPU has evidently lined up 30 constituencies to be stacked with Chapple-approved delegates. Such measures involve a form of accountability which is reminiscent of feudalism.

There certainly needs to be full participation in the Labour Party by the branches of affiliated unions. And their delegates should behave precisely as their title suggests: to present the view of the branch to the GMC; to argue for Labour Party views in the union — and to be elected by those members they will represent.



Frank Chapple, general secretary of EETPU

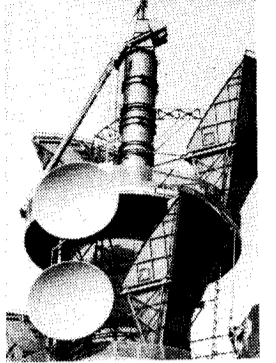
PO engineers challenge phone taps

By Buggy, POEU

THE Post Office Engineering Union is trying to ensure that there is some control on the activities of the security organisations over telephone tapping.

In the committee stage of the Bill which allows firms to cash in on profitable telecoms business, the POEU-sponsored MPs inserted a clause making it an offence to intercept a call unless a warrant has been issued by the Home Secretary.

The clause also requires the Home Secretary to inform the subscriber about the tapping, unless it can be shown that this would assist criminal activity or threaten national security.



Act will not be used against Post Office workers who give information about illicit use of phone taps.

It is well known that the security organisations bend and ignore the rules, but since the Home Secretary does not inform us of the warrants that are issued, we are not able to identify illicit taps — Catch 22!

To overcome these various hurdles, the POEU is collecting information from members about any phone tapping being undertaken for political purposes, whether it is authorised or otherwise.

While this will hopefully expose government spying on political and trade union activists, there is still only one sensible course: if you want to keep information secret, don't use the phone.

One further tip. A practice that has recently come to light is that security agents are being sent out to do phone repairs in the homes of those under surveillance. So as well as asking who is listening to your conversations, ask who is repairing your phone.

Guides

Although the new guidelines put forward by the Labour MPs are fairly broad, they would make it less easy to justify eavesdropping on conversations about political or trade union activity. However, unless there is a back-bench Tory revolt, the government will have no difficulty in axing these proposals when the Bill goes back to the House of Commons.

The POEU is not relying on new laws. Lord Diplock, chairperson of the Security Commission, has assured the union that the Official Secrets



By order of the Leveller Collective

As part of the celebrations of its 50th issue, Leveller magazine is holding a

TEACH—IN ON THE STATE

On Saturday March 7 at the Polytechnic of Central London, 115 New Cavendish St, London W1

with debates, food and drink, film, subversion, theatre, revelations of all kinds of hidden things, a crèche, stalls, solidarity...

It runs continuously from 11am to 7pm. Drop in. Admission £2 waged, £1 unwaged.

The electrical storm which brought Chapple to power

By Bob Pennington

TONY Perrin's play The Union shown on BBC-1 on Tuesday of last week had two aims.

First it exposed the crooked role of the Stalinist leaders in the Electrical Trades Union which led to the ballot rigging scandal of the early '60s. Conclusion: keep the reds out of power.

Aim number two was to make us grateful to the crusaders who saved democracy in the union. Thank God for Les Cannon, Woodrow Wyatt, Catholic Action, the British media and of course Frank Chapple.

Conclusion: Frank knows what he is doing when he defends his union against Commies and Trots and fights the Bennite hordes in the Labour Party.

However, it is not enough to dismiss Perrin's play as nothing more than red-baiting.

The Communist Party ran the ETU virtually as an adjunct of the party. Oppositions got short shrift.

The union journal extolled official union policy, revered the CP officials, and read like a party house-journal.

For those standing for office in the union just a party card was worth a few thousand votes.

Like all bureaucrats, the Stalinists used the union funds as a means of buying and selling people.

When Cannon got out of line he found he did not get on committees and his income from union expenses took a sharp dive. When he was back in favour he was offered the plum job of lecturing at the ETU college at Esher.

There he taught lay officials how correct union policy was, and how wise and virtuous was comrade Stalin.

In 1956 everything blew up. Khrushchev spilled the beans on Stalin. The Poles rioted at Poznan. For a few heroic days the Hungarian masses stormed the heavens, only to be crushed by Russian tanks. The British CP cracked and splintered.

Les Cannon and others

in the ETU left the party. His job at the college disappeared. Battle was joined between the dissidents and the Haxell-Foulkes leadership.

Choices had to be made. At first Cannon flirted with a small group of lefts who had been fighting the Stalinists for years.

I was in the ETU then, and Cannon stayed with me in Liverpool. We talked into the early hours, about Stalinism, Trotskyism, the kind of opposition that was needed in the union, and whether the Labour Party could be won to Marxism.

Cannon and his mates did not remain with the left for long. The Trotskyists did not have much power and there were other forces to ally with — such as the media, the right-wing TUC leaders, and even Catholic Action.

For those trained in the school of Stalinism, manoeuvring comes easily, and it did not take long for these ETU officials to come to terms with their new allies.

The courts decided that

the ballot for the general secretary's job had been rigged. Haxell and Foulkes were expelled from the ETU. Cannon, Chapple, and company took over.

They banned Communists from holding office, whereupon a bunch of cynical time-servers tore up their party cards and kept their jobs, their cars, and their expenses. The day before they served Haxell; now they would serve their new masters.

The union set off at breakneck speed for the right. There was a crackdown on oppositons, just like in the old days. At present time there are even fewer elections in the EETPU than there were when Stalinism ruled.

Of course, Perrin did not show us Chapple's democracy. Nor did he explain that Cannon and company were the children of Stalinism who found it very easy to swap one bureaucratic regime for another.

But then if you are a member of the Frank Chapple fan club it is very hard to dramatise an objective history of the events in the electricians' union.



Frank Windsor as Frank Haxell, general secretary of the ETU

Water workers fight on

By Brian Grogan

'WE'RE going to stick out for the full 15 per cent on basic pay with no strings.' That was the message from John Tomlinson, General and Municipal Workers Union shop steward from the Oldham area, when he spoke to Socialist Challenge last week.

Rank and file unofficial action continued to spread in the North West and North East in defiance of the union leaders' call to accept the National Water Council's latest offer.

Press reports have put the offer at 12.3 per cent. This is nonsense as John Tomlinson explained: 'All that's different

from the previous offer is to consolidate the £5 attendance supplement. There's no more money on the table. It's only worth 7.9 per cent on the basic.'

'And do you know what basic pay is?' asked another G&M member Phil Beard. 'It's £66 gross for Grade 1 and only £60.52 for Grade 4.

Our initial claim was for £20 across the board. We've already made a compromise on the 15 per cent. We don't want any more compromises.'

The Oldham workers are justifiably angry. Negotiations have dragged on for four months. There was overwhelming support to take industrial action for the full claim. The employers' latest offer — their third 'final' offer — came as industrial action was spreading. Now the union leaders are back-tracking as fast as possible.

'The miners gave us a big boost of confidence,'

added Oldham G&M strike committee member, Bob Lees. 'They showed that the government could be beaten.'

Action

The union leaders don't want to take on this Tory government. Both the miners and the water workers have shown that it is through rank and file action, often in the face of opposition from the union leaderships, that the Tories and the employers can be brought to their knees.

Very often such unofficial action, like the water workers, is short-lived. Isolated, and without the same industrial muscle they would have with national action, they are forced back to work.

But in these pockets of resistance to the officials and executives of the unions, many important lessons are being learnt.

'We should be the ones in control,' argued James Cowan from the Transport Union in Oldham.

'The officials have spent all their time trying to keep us in. There are 33,000 members and, I think, 19 officials. We pay their wages. They

should be up for election every 12 months. Then they would be helping us build this strike, not undermining it.'

Power

As key sections of the working class 'rise like lions' against the Tories, the labour movement should use its power to bring an end to this government once and for all.

STOP PRESS: At a mass meeting on Monday morning 200 Oldham waterworkers rejected the advice of their full-time officials to go back to work.

Dave Nelson, senior steward for the North-west Pennines area division, told Socialist Challenge:

'By unanimous decision we voted to stay out for the full 15 per cent. We've got our orders from the rank and file, not the fulltimers. We'll be contacting other divisions to extend the strike.'

Bob Lees from the strike committee added: 'It's obvious we need a national strike committee, a rank and file body. All we're operating on at the moment is a list of phone numbers and useless full-time officials.'

"WE ARE WOMEN WORKERS FIGHTING FOR OUR JOBS"

By Jean Mackenzie

'WOMEN'S jobs are as important as any other, and we aim to prove that women can fight for them' is the message of the 250 workers occupying the VF Corporation plant in Greenock, Scotland.

The workers, mainly young women, have been occupying the plant — which makes Lee jeans — for five weeks. They are protesting at the management's decision to close the plant and transfer production to its two factories in Ireland. The occupiers are demanding that no workers should be sacked and that the work should be shared out among all the factories.

Catherine Fulton, shop steward at the plant, told Socialist Challenge about the struggle.

THE decision to occupy was unanimous at a mass meeting. There was nothing left to do if we were to keep the jobs in Greenock. We don't want to take jobs off the Irish plants. We just want the work to be shared.

At the moment the support is fantastic. We occupy the factory in three shifts. There are usually between 50 and 60 in each shift. Most of the time we watch the TV or play cards.

Sometimes acts from the local clubs come up to perform at the sit-in. Now there are more people going out on delegations to win support.

We've got the full backing of our union, the National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers, and it will be made official. The Scottish TUC have also met

us and they've promised to do everything they can.

At the moment we need around £1500 a week to keep the occupation going. We've just started going out to other places like Edinburgh and Dundee to win support. If we get enough support we can hold out till we're grey-headed.

The management are still in some parts of the building. About ten of them are working their three shifts as well. They hope they can sit us out.

This factory is only nine years old and some of the equipment has just been installed. We've got £1m worth of stock for the Scandinavian spring collection so the owners will be trying something pretty soon.

At the moment we don't have any difficulties in the occupation. Most of us are



Women workers in the occupied Greenock factory — 'The support has been fantastic'



**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
8 MARCH 1981**

young. We were recruited as school leavers. Even women who have kids take part in the

VF Corporation Sit-in Appeal

This Thursday sees our sit-in fight to save 250 jobs at the VF Corporation factory in Greenock enter its fourth week. The clothing factory has been occupied 24 hours a day since talks with the company about work-sharing broke down.

The sit-in has united both the factory and office staff, and although we are almost all women involved, we have received 100 per cent support from the men in the factory.

Facing a 25 per cent reduction in orders, VF Corporation, an American multi-national — trade name 'Lee' jeans — finds it more profitable to close the Greenock plant and concentrate production in its Belgian and Irish factories. We believe

that people come before profits, and have occupied the factory to press our demand for work-sharing across all the company's factories. So far the company has refused even to allow an investigation into the union plan for work-sharing.

We are no 'rag trade' girls, we are women workers fighting for our jobs with the only weapons available to us. Women's jobs are as important as any other, and we aim to prove that women can fight for them.

With your support we will win. Messages of support and donations to: National Union of Tailors & Garment Workers, 534 Sauchiehall St Glasgow.

occupation. They've usually had some arrangement for baby sitting anyway. The occupation is being run by the shop stewards committee and we have regular meetings.

Thatcher's visit to Washington No British support for US in El Salvador!

AS Margaret Thatcher went off to see her co-thinker in Washington last week, the British government gave its clearest indication yet of its support for the US line on El Salvador.

The Foreign Office stated that the 'evidence' provided by the United States of alleged Cuban, Russian, and Vietnamese arms supplies to the rebel forces 'clearly points to activities which can only be regarded as unacceptable interference in the internal affairs of El Salvador'.

As the US steps up its international campaign to win support

for its intervention to support the military junta, the Foreign Office statement is an ominous sign that Britain is preparing to give all-out support to Reagan over the El Salvador issue.

Washington is preparing a naval armada of over 40 warships in the Caribbean, and carrying out exercises, including landings at the US base at Guantanamo in Cuba. These operations are

being conducted in cooperation with the Chilean navy.

The attitude of the British government to El Salvador is in marked contrast to that of the other West European countries, in particular West Germany.

Reports stated that the first day of talks between Thatcher and Reagan were dominated by the El Salvador question.

The new US administration is deadly serious in its intention of inflicting a defeat on the popular forces in El Salvador. Accord-

ing to the FDR (Revolutionary Democratic Front) there are now as many US military advisers in El Salvador as there were in Vietnam before the US troops went in.

The ideological smokescreen behind which the American operation is being carried out is the assertion that the Duarte regime is a 'centrist' alternative to both the extremes of right and left 'terrorists'.

It is this fraud which the British Foreign Office is supporting.



SPAIN: millions march against plotters

By Frank McBride

FIRST reactions to last week's attempted coup in Spain were that it was the action of a lunatic fascist colonel together with 200 civil guards.

But the facts which have emerged show the reverse:

● After the coup attempt it took nearly seven hours for the king to make his TV broadcast. During this period he was negotiating with the army conditions for their continued support.

● Among the plotters were many senior army personnel. General Milans del Bosch, commander of the 3rd military region, sent his troops into the streets of Valencia, complete with tanks, and issued proclamations banning strikes, political parties and trade unions.

● The Brunete tank division ten miles from Madrid was put on full alert. It was touch-and-go whether tanks were sent into Madrid.

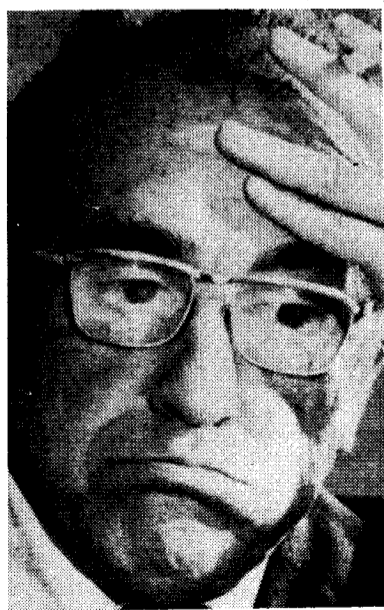
● General Armada, the 'loyal' officer who negotiated with the plotters, has been implicated in the coup bid and sack-

ed. A purge of senior army personnel is now going on.

Large numbers of army officers knew about the coup and it seems likely that the security services did too.

In completing their transition from the fascist-style Franco state to 'democracy', the Spanish ruling class have had to carry over institutions like the Civil Guard and the army, large sections of which still hanker for a return to fascism.

Last Friday more than a million Spaniards marched through Madrid to denounce the plotters and to celebrate their defeat. This huge demonstration and the similar ones which took place simultaneously in virtually every Spanish town and village show that the social polarisa-



Carillo (left), the CP leader, called for loyalty to King Juan Carlos (right)

tion which existed during the 1930s has disappeared.

The mass base of fascism has evaporated, but the fascists remain entrenched in the state apparatus.

Despite the huge mobilisations on Friday

evening a stark fact remains. In the period immediately following the coup, the trades unions and workers' parties were largely passive. Only in the Basque country and Catalonia were any moves taken to mobilise working class resistance.

The best response came in the Basque country. Here militants from the Trotskyist LKI were able to call mass assemblies in the major plants' night shifts and organise an immediate strike. The far left parties together with the Communist Party called for a general

strike, which was called off when the coup had obviously failed.

The Communist Party in Catalonia, which recently threw out its Eurocommunist leadership in favour of a 'Leninist' grouping, also called for strike action.

In Madrid, the Trotskyists called a demonstration of several thousand people in front of the parliament building within hours of the attempted coup — a demonstration which went unreported by the British press.

But elsewhere the trade unions and the Communist and Socialist Parties remained passive, calling for 'calm' and 'loyalty to the king'.

This response gives a crucial insight into the reasons for the failure of the coup. The Spanish rulers no longer need fascism, so long as the demands of the workers can be kept within the confines of the 'loyalty to the constitution' supported by both Communist leader Carrillo and Socialist leader Gonzales.

The question being asked by all Spanish people is whether the coup was a rehearsal for a further, more determined attempt. No one can say for sure; but so long as the army and the Civil Guard is not purged of fascist officers the danger remains.

One thing we can be sure of. The Spanish working class, despite the criminal reformist policies of its leaders, has come a long way since the dark days of the Franco dictatorship.

Unless there are new and major defeats inflicted on the Spanish workers, it is inconceivable that a new military coup, successful or not, could be stabilised without provoking a civil war.

The millions who marched last Friday chanted, 'If this is not the people, tell us what it is'. After last week's events, the Spanish workers will give their own answer to any new fascist plots, whatever the king, the Communist Party and the Socialist Party say.

Stop the missiles

Cops of the world

By George Marshall

'I WANT the neutron bomb.' That's what Margaret Thatcher told her New York audience at the Waldorf-Astoria last week. While countries like France and Germany have become distinctly edgy about the cold war policies emanating from the White House, Thatcher's visit to the United States was all about strengthening Western 'defence'.

But the neutron bomb wasn't the half of it. Thatcher really went over the top when she suggested that Britain and the United States need a joint Rapid Deployment Force to defend the oilfields in the Middle East.

This proposal is not exactly original. It obligingly follows the new strategic 'thinking' in Washington.

Besides trying to line up other Western countries behind its plans to smash the revolutionary movement in El Salvador, the Reagan/Haig mafia are trying to persuade the Western allies to accept the neutron bomb and the

extension of NATO's role. The latter would reach beyond West Europe to extend its striking power eastwards.

In the 1950s the United States organised three alliances with world-wide tentacles: NATO; CENTO, the Central Treaty Organisation, which covered Western Asia; and SEATO, the South-east Asian Treaty Organisation.

Because of the political upheavals of the last 20 years CENTO and SEATO no longer function effectively.

Now the Americans, with their economy under strain,



want the Western allies to develop their striking capacity to help their defence of 'freedom' world-wide. Thatcher's statement about British help for a strike force that could intervene in the Middle East may well be more bravado than reality.

Although Britain

has contributed the SAS and other military officers to shore up the truly feudal despotism in the Gulf region, it is difficult to believe that any substantial British forces could be committed outside the European theatre.

The last time that

British imperialism tried such an adventure — the Suez invasion of 1956 — it ended in farce, as the lumbering and outdated British military machine showed itself incapable of deploying its forces with any speed.

Margaret Thatcher's remarks about the neutron bomb indicate even more clearly the loony drift of her 'defence' thinking. 'I want an effective anti-tank weapon', she said. 'It was wrong to call it a "bomb" in the first place — it's a weapon' (sic).

Bomb

It's true, of course, that the neutron bomb can be used as an anti-tank shell; but it has a yield of several kilotons. The weakest neutron bomb would still cause a gigantic nuclear explosion.

The argument for an effective anti-tank weapon has a clear implication: that Thatcher and Reagan are prepared to see the West use nuclear weapons first in the event of a nuclear conflict.

As the world hurtles towards a new cold war, Britain more than any other country is aiding and abetting Reagan's lunacy. The labour movement has to pull out all the stops to put an end to it.

Anti-missile Action Guide

WHAT'S on against the missiles? The following events are listed by CND. If you have a film show a demonstration, a public meeting or other anti nuclear event, please send the details to us and CND.



7 March: Bristol CND labour movement conference: 'Jobs not Bombs'. Sponsored by Bristol Trades Council and Tony Benn. Shepherds Hall, Old Market, 10 am-5pm. Films, workshops, creche.

7 March: Jobs not Bombs march. Clapham Common to Wandsworth Town Hall. Assemble Clapham South tube at 1pm.

10 March: Picket Stockport Council against their civil defence plans, 6 o'clock at the Town Hall.

14 March: Sheffield nuclear disarmament demonstration and rally. Assemble 10.30/11.30am, Carlisle St. Rally in the City Oval Hall featuring Neil Kinnoch MP, Ray Buckton ASLEF, Bruce Kent CND.

14-21 March: Cardiff Week of Action includes meetings with EP Thompson, showings of 'The War Game'; public meeting 'Nuclear Weapons, US war drive and El Salvador. Rock concert and socials, poetry readings. Ending with demonstration 'No Cruise missiles, No Trident subs — Jobs not Bombs' on March 21. Invited speakers from the National Union of Mineworkers, Labour Party, Plaid Cymru and CND. Phone John Southern, secretary of Cardiff CND 0222-372674.

28 March: Ealing Trades Council coach to CND Labour Movement conference against the Missiles, Manchester. Phone Andy (574-2895) for details. £6 return.

31 March: Islington CND public meeting. Speakers: Jo Richardson MP, Melvyn Bragg, Duncan Campbell, Cllr Margaret Pitt, Dr Berry Beaumont. 8pm, Central Library, off Holloway Road, London N7.

4 April: 'Jobs not Bombs' march in Stockton (Bill Rodgers' constituency). Speakers from LP, CND, Trades Council; Assemble Norton Green, 12.30pm. Details tel. 0642 2444316.

11 April: Youth CND conference in Birmingham.

12 April: Trans-Pennine march starting in Leeds — through Rochdale to Manchester.

18 April: Mass demonstration called by CND and Manchester Against the Missiles to greet the Trans-Pennine March. Details tel 061-236 4905.

Easter: No Aldermaston march will take place. There will be large events in all regional centres.

May Day: National CND conference in London. Details from: CND, 11 Goodwin St, London N4. Tel 01-263 4954.



Southall marchers say no to bunker

By Pete Grant

EALING'S Tory council is planning to spend thousands of pounds on renovating an underground bunker in Southall, to be used in the event of nuclear war by military and civilian officials to co-ordinate local 'government' in the area.

Ironically, at a time when Ealing like other local authorities is cutting back heavily on education spending, the bunker is located underneath a school in South Road.

Last Saturday several hundred people marched through Southall in a march organised by Ealing CND, including many young and Asian people demanding that Ealing council spend the money more productively. As one parent put it: 'No money for school books = no money for shelters'.



Ealing CND's demo last Saturday.

CND LABOUR MOVEMENT CONFERENCE AGAINST THE MISSILES

Saturday 28th. March in MANCHESTER at UMIST Students Union

Delegation will be accepted as follows:
2 each from Trade Union branches, Trades Councils, shop stewards' committees, Constituency Labour Parties and branches, regional and national executives of Trade Unions and the Labour Party.
Other political parties in the Labour Movement are invited to send delegates on a national basis of up to 20 per party.
Delegation fee £3 per delegate.
Creche facilities will be available.
Please mark all correspondence with LABOUR MOVEMENT CONFERENCE in top left hand corner of envelope.

To be completed by secretary of delegating body and returned to CND, 11 Goodwin Street, London N4

Organisation:

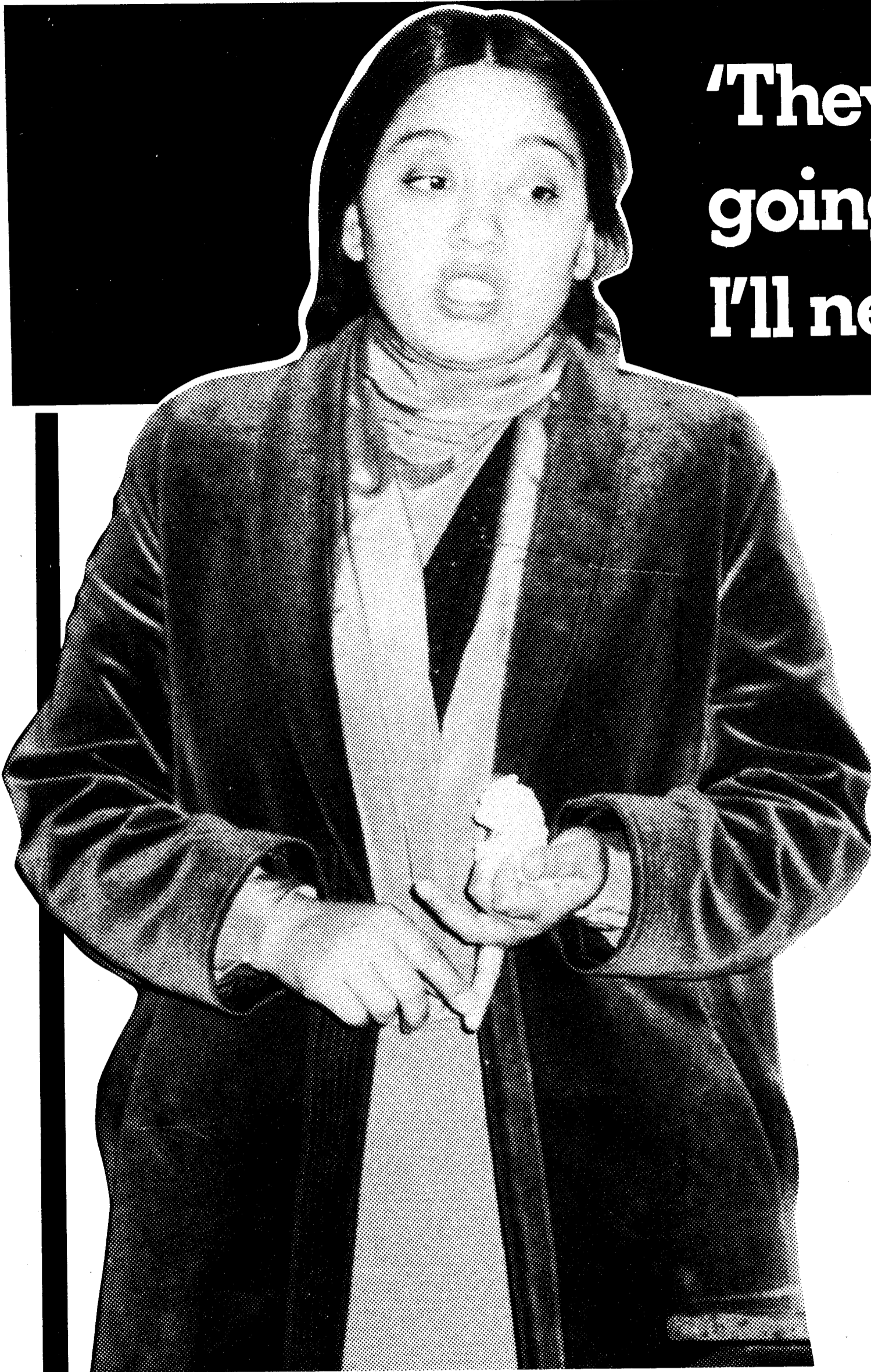
Political party:

Address:

Enclosed registration fee £..... (£3 per delegate) cheques payable to CND
Do you require creche facilities? ... for how many?

A message for all Socialist Challenge supporters

Get delegated to the missiles conference!



'They think Anwar going to give up I'll never give up

BRITISH Immigration laws are racist. Through successive Acts of Parliament the law has been perfected to allow easy entry for 'desirable' whites and to keep out black people. Now a new Nationality Bill with the same racist basis is about to come into force.

WE'VE been up all night organising things in Pakistan. We phoned the children in Pakistan, it took ages to get through. The children were so happy to talk to us. They wanted to speak to my daughter, Samera. They said: 'Please, Mum, wake her up, please, please.'

She was asleep. It was three o'clock in the morning. But she spoke to them. It was the first time. She has never seen them. She kept crying and saying: 'I want to go and see them.'

And they said: 'Mummy and Daddy, we miss you.' People think the kids don't understand what's going on. They do understand.

Some people say, 'But it's five or six years since you've last seen your children, they might not remember you'. That's out of the question. They know who I am, they haven't forgotten me at all, nor their father.

When did you first realise that you weren't going to be allowed to bring them here?

When our case was turned down. After that it went on and on. I was turned down on appeal as well. Then the campaign started. At the tribunal they said the case was closed, but I'm still campaigning.

I go to lots of meetings. I went to the Labour Party conference at Blackpool and spoke there. I spoke at the Tribune meeting and the national executive is supposed to be taking my case up, but I haven't heard anything.

I met Labour's Home Secretary, Merlyn Rees, and I asked him: 'What are you going to do about the families you've destroyed?' He replied: 'I can't say anything without knowing about your case — leave me the reference number.'

I am getting help from Joel Barnett MP. He's been interested in the case from the beginning. Cyril Smith (Liberal MP for Rochdale where Anwar lives) turned me down because I'm a member of the Labour Party.

He wrote to me saying: 'I suggest you ask your Labour Party friends to help you.'

I wrote to him again and he accused me of breaking up meetings. I haven't broken up any meetings. He says he can't



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1953 Anwar is born in Birmingham.

1962 Aged nine she is sent to Pakistan.

1967 She marries Shuja Ud Din, although below the legal age for marriage. She has three children — Kamran, Imran, and Saima.

1975 Anwar returns to England where she has another child, Samera. Believing their marriage to be invalid under British laws she and Shuja remarry in Rochdale. They give their status as bachelor and spinster, thinking this the correct thing to do.

1976 As they now have a house they apply for their children in Pakistan to join them.

1978 On 21 February they are interviewed.

1979 On 18 May the Home Office refuses entry on the grounds that they do not believe the children to be Anwar's.

1980 Anwar's appeal is turned down on 30 July and in September leave to appeal against the decision is refused. The Home Office declares the case closed although the adjudicator agrees that the three children are indeed Anwar's. The reason given are the 'lies' in the past — mis-stating her age on marriage in Pakistan, and declaring herself to be a spinster at Rochdale Registry Office.

Whether Kamran, Imran and Saima are allowed to enter the country now depends on all of us.

Anwar Ditta's No chance!

ANWAR DITTA is a victim of these racist laws. For five years she has fought a heroic battle to bring her children to this country and to reunite her family. JENNY FLINTOFT interviewed her as she rested briefly between campaign meetings.



**INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S DAY
8 MARCH 1981**



...s to bring Anwar's children to Britain. ... children in Pakistan.

saying we're willing to have blood tests. Now after all these years they finally say they want blood tests.

Do you think they hope you'll give up and go back to Pakistan?

I think they do reckon I'll give up, because they know it's not easy to organise the blood tests. It's very complicated. You have to have the same doctor: both here and in Pakistan, and you have to go through a lot of procedures to show that it was done properly. But there's no way I'll give up.

Before the campaign I was just a housewife, now it's totally different. I still do both jobs; I'm a housewife and I'm out speaking at meetings. It's meetings all the time.

On Thursday I went to a meeting in Manchester and yesterday we were in Leicester.

They do feel strange about it. But I think it's about time that somebody spoke up about what's happening in this country. You know it could happen to them any time.

Asian people are always being asked questions like: 'When you came into the country you

The Labour Party wants your vote but...

That's right. These people that I've met — Tony Benn, Michael Foot, Joan Lester, Barbara Castle — you name them, I've met them all. I told them all about my case and you can see what's happened — nothing.

'A country that destroys people's families isn't a civilised country'

had a moustache, why haven't you got one now? You can't be the same person.'

Or English people spell our names wrong on documents and then the authorities say: 'You're not the same person, the spelling's different.' It's only black people of course — if you're white, you're okay.

I read an article in the *Times* or the *Guardian* ages ago about Shirley Webster who appealed to the prime minister when her marriage broke up in South Africa. She was allowed to come here, but not my children. She was white and I am black.

And the Nationality Bill will make things worse for black people.

Yes, it's a racist law totally. There's no other way to describe it. Whitelaw has been saying it'll be a fairer deal for black people — that's completely wrong.

It means that children born to people not free from conditions will have to wait 10 years for citizenship. That means black children. White children won't have to wait 10 years. And if white people go abroad they don't lose their citizenship. But that can happen to black people.

And what does Overseas Citizenship mean? Those black people won't be able to come here. They will be citizens of this country and they won't be able to come here.

But this new Nationality Bill is based upon the Green Paper produced by the Labour Party. I hope the Labour Party people realise what they've done. We've voted Labour all our lives but we want better things for black people, we don't just want to be used.

Joel Barnett is the only one to take it up. Yet every MP must have heard of Anwar Ditta, I've spoken at that many meetings.

Were you nervous the first time you spoke at a meeting?

Many people have asked me how I felt. This is what I always tell them: telling the truth doesn't hurt anybody. So I don't feel scared or nervous at all. I just do it because I'm doing it for my children. It's about time that black people realised the truth.

Many Asians say Britain is a civilised country. I don't think so. A country that destroys people's families isn't civilised.

You can help Anwar's campaign by contacting the defence committee at 127 Crawford St, Rochdale, Lancs. Or ring Rochdale 39832.

At a United Kingdom Immigrant Advisory Service conference a black person asked Arthur Latham: 'How many white families have you seen destroyed by the Home Office? Do you know of any?' He couldn't think of a single example, because there is none. There's just a list

of black families that have been destroyed.

I read in Here to Stay that the adjudicator now agrees that the children are yours. But now they can't come to this country because you had previously been 'telling lies'.

That's right. At first they said: 'The names and ages of your children are similar to those of your sister-in-law's children.' So I asked my sister-in-law to send photographs of all the children together. And my children and hers are totally different sets of children.

For how long are they going to keep them out? For how long are they going to say no, no no? How long? They think Anwar Ditta is going to give up. No chance, no chance. I'll never give up.

They've ruined our lives: our family life has been destroyed; our social life has been destroyed. There's no way I'm going to give up. All over England people have heard of my campaign, and in other countries too.

We've received letters of support from people all over the world asking what they can do. There are lots of people that want to help, and I still want that help so we can go ahead and do the blood tests.

It's not easy to send investigators because it costs an awful lot of money. I'm begging people to help me. We need people's help more than ever now — whatever anybody can afford. We need at least £2000 or maybe even more than that.

I just hope I get my children soon. They're really, really strong. It's not been easy running the campaign, sending letters over the country, all the meetings. I just hope I get them soon.

and fold a pack of 100. I had a regular job but I had to give it up. I can't do a regular job if I want to get my children here. I've sacrificed everything for the campaign. We have no social life.

We came back from Leicester last night at half past eleven. We didn't sleep, what with phoning Pakistan and then talking about

...out time that ...ody spoke up ...at's happening ...is country'

the kids for the rest of the night. My mother-in-law rang to say: 'I pray for you night and day, that you get your children here soon.'

We are getting new evidence for the authorities. Every time they turn me down there's more new evidence. I've given them the whole world's documents — everything they've ever asked for. I've never refused a blood test. For five years we've been

THE THIN END OF THE WHITE WEDGE

The new Nationality Laws
Second class citizenship
& the Welfare State

MANCHESTER LAW CENTRE IMMIGRATION HANDBOOK No 5 £1

The Thin End of the White Wedge, Manchester Law Centre Immigration Handbook No 5 — on New Nationality Laws. Cost £1. Available from: Manchester Law Centre, 595 Stockport Road, Longsight, Manchester.

Here to Stay — newsletter of the Campaign Against Racist Laws. Available from: CARL, Lansbury House, 41 Camberwell Grove, London SE5.

In twenty minutes' time I've got to go back down to Leicester. It's a long way. I'll have to change trains about four times and it's Sunday too.

Do you find that Asian people here think it's a bit strange that an Asian woman should be addressing meetings?

Campaign Against Racist Laws

National Demonstration against Tory Nationality Bill

**Sunday 5 April
in London**

For details: contact CARL, Lansbury House, 41 Camberwell Grove, London SE5.

Where you can buy Socialist Challenge

ABERDEEN: SC sold Saturdays outside C&As — for more info ring Colin, 574060.

BATH: SC on sale at 1985 Books, London Road, and Saturdays 2pm-3pm outside the Roman Baths. Phone 20298 for more details.

BIRMINGHAM: SC on sale at The Ramp, Fri 4.30-5.40, Sat 10-4. For more info phone 643-0669.

BRADFORD: SC available from Fourth Idea Bookshop, 14 Southgate.

BRIGHTON: SC sales regularly every Sat outside Open Market, London Road, from 11am-1pm.

BRISTOL: SC on sale 11-1, 'Hole in Ground', Haymarket. More info from Box 2, c/o Fullmarks, 110 Cheltenham Rd, Montpellier, Bristol 6.

BURNLEY: SC on sale every Sat morning 11.30-1pm St James St.

CARDIFF: every Sat in Bute Town 10.30-12. Also available 1-8 Books, Salisbury Road.

CHESTERFIELD: SC supporters sell outside Boots, Marketplace, Saturdays 11.30am-12.30pm.

COVENTRY: SC available from Wedge Bookshop. For more info about local activities phone 461138.

DUNDEE: SC available from Dundee City Square outside Boots, every Thursday 4-5.30pm, Friday 4-5.30pm, Saturday 11-4pm.

EDINBURGH: SC sales every Thursday 4.15-5.15pm Bus Station, St. Andrews Square and bottom of Waverly steps 4.30-5.30; Saturday 11.30-2pm East End, Princes St. Also available from 1st May Books, or Better Books, Forrest Rd. More info on local activity from SC c/o Box 6, 1st May Bookshop, Candlemaker Row.

ENFIELD: SC available from Nelsons newsagents, London Rd, Enfield Town.

GLASGOW: SC sales every Thur/Fri 4.30-5.30pm at Central Station. Also available at Barretts, Byres Rd; Clyde books, High St; Glasgow Bookshop collective, Cresswell Lane; Hope Street Book Centre.

HACKNEY: supporters sell SC every Saturday morning at Ridley Road market.

HAMILTON: SC on sale 8-11 every Sat, outside County Bar, Alameda Street, every Sat outside Safeway 1.30-5. For more info contact Paul, 17 Clyde View or John at 54 Eliot St, Hamilton.

HUDDERSFIELD: SC supporters sell papers every Saturday 11am-1pm. The Piazza. SC also available at Peaceworks.

KILBURN: SC sales every Sat, 10am in Kilburn Square.

LAMBETH: SC available from Village Books, Streatham; Tethric Books, Clapham; Paperback Centre, Brixton; Oval tube kiosk. Also sold Thur and Fri evenings and Thur mornings outside Brixton tube.

MANCHESTER: SC supporters sell 11-1pm Sat at OLDHAM outside the Yorkshire Bank, High St; at BURV in the shopping precinct and at Metro Books; at BOLTON in the town centre; and in MANCHESTER outside the central reference library in St Peter's Square and at Grassroots and Percivals Bookshop. Tel: 061-236 4905 for further info.

NEWCASTLE: SC on sale every Sat 11-1pm outside Fenwicks. Also available at Days of Hope bookshop, Westgate Rd. For more info ring Phil or Pete on Newcastle 737507.

NEWHAM: SC sale every Saturday, 11am to noon, Queen's Rd Market, Upton Park.

NEWPORT: every Sat in town centre 11-12.30.

OLDHAM: SC sold every Saturday outside Yorkshire Bank, High Street. For more information about local activities. Tel: 061-682 5151.

OXFORD: SC supporters sell every Fri 12-2pm outside Kings Arms and every Sat 10.30-12.30pm in Cornmarket.

STOCKPORT: SC sold every Saturday, 1pm, Mersey Way. Can be delivered weekly: phone 483 8909 (evening), 236 4905 (day).

SWANSEA: SC sales outside Co-op, Oxford St, 11am-1pm, Saturdays.

SWINDON: SC on sale 11-1 every Sat., Regent St (Brunel Centre).

TEESSIDE: SC on sale Sat lunchtime in the Cleveland Centre, and in Newsfare, Linthorpe Road, Middlesbrough, and outside Woolworths on Stockton High Street.

WOLVERHAMPTON: SC sales on Thur/Fri at Poly Students Union from noon-2pm and British Rail 4.30-6pm; on Saturday near Beatties, town centre from 11am-2pm.

Is your town or city mentioned above? If not, send in details to this sales column.

What's Left

RATES for What's Left: 5p per word or 24 per col. inch. Deadline: noon Sat, prior to publication. Payment in advance. **BIRMINGHAM** Youth CND March against the Missiles — Sat 21 March Assemble 12 noon at Gosta Green, Aston University. **BROADSIDE** Mobile Workers' Theatre requires socialist musician/actress/actor for permanent work commencing 13 April. Write to 241E, High St North, London E10 or telephone 01-470 2581.

Exclusive John Lennon poster!

Now in tasteless dayglo — please specify green or red paper. Just £1. Bulk orders (over 5) are post free, otherwise, send 30p p&p. Orders and money to: The Other Printshop, c/o Po Box 50, London N1 2XP.

EALING trades council coach to Labour Movement Conference Against the Missiles. Cost £6 return. Leaves Sat 28 March 6.55am Southall town hall, 7.10am Ealing Common, junction of Uxbridge Rd & Nth Circular Rd, 7.30am junction of Nth Circular and Gt North Way. Contact A Lilley phone 574-2895 evenings.

LEEDS Troops Out Movement. Torchlight protest to support the Irish hunger strikers. Fri 13 March and Fri 20 March, 5.30 to 7pm Town Hall steps, the Headrow, Leeds. Public meeting to support the hunger strikers, speakers from Sinn Fein and TOM. Fri 27 March 8pm at Leeds Trades Council Bluc, Savile Mt, Leeds 7. TOM Day School on Ireland, speakers from Sinn Fein, Information on Ireland, TOM, Women and Ireland etc. Contact Box 1969, 29 Blenheim Terrace, Leeds 2.

HARINGEY Campaign Against the Cuts. Five mile march around the borough and rally to demand Haringey Council does not yield to Tory government pressure and institute cuts, rate and rent rises and redundancies. Sat 7 March at 1pm, Duckett's Common, Turnpike Lane. Rally at 3pm. Also lobby of council at civic centre, Mon 9 March at 6.30pm before its rate-making meeting.

SMASH the Prevention of Terrorism Act Campaign. Labour Movement Conference: TUC HANDS OFF IRELAND! Coventry 14 March 1981.

The TUC has threatened to disaffiliate any trades council that supports this conference. Defend the Coventry Conference! Support the campaign to change TUC policy to support the Irish national liberation struggle! Sponsors include: Trades Councils (Tameside, Todmorden, Hackney, Spennymoor, Wear Valley, Salford). Three members of Trade Union Subcommittee National H Blocks/Armagh Committee. Information: SPTAC, BM RCT, London WC1N 3XX. Tel 01-274 3961.

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WOLVERHAMPTON: SC sales on Thur/Fri at Poly Students Union from noon-2pm and British Rail 4.30-6pm; on Saturday near Beatties, town centre from 11am-2pm.

RAIL: national fraction for IMG/RV members on Sunday 8 March at national centre. Agenda includes: upcoming claims, cuts and redundancies, jobs not bombs, affirmative action for women and blacks.

STAFF NEEDED for The Other Bookshop. IMG cde needed with accounts experience or aptitude who could be trained. Cdes to do ordering and work on counter. Apply by ringing 01-226 0571.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS: Cards now available for members of Revolution Youth. All branches should place orders with national office.

MISSILES: national fraction Sun 5 April, London. A meeting for all RV members involved in building YCND or other anti-peace work. Contact Richard at national office for more details.

REVO 16: next issue underway, out for beginning of April. Get your branch reports in now.

ROCK AGAINST GISCARD

— on a weekend visit to Paris



The last Rouge fête in Paris

By Nick Robin

HOW'S your imagination? Ever dreamt of a weekend in Paris? A weekend with thousands of revolutionaries at a huge political festival?

We'd like to announce that your dreams can come true. On the weekend of 11/12 April the French Trotskyists of the Revolutionary Communist League will be holding such a festival, and you are all invited!

The fête is the culmination of the campaign for the League's candidate in the French Presidential elections, Alain Krivine. It is a fête of workers' unity against the corrupt and repressive Giscard regime, a fête for a government of the

French Communist and Socialist Parties.

But it is more than that, it is a fête in solidarity with the oppressed world over. And you are guaranteed to have a good time. Fifteen thousand people are expected to attend a weekend of music, debates, films, forums, discussion, food and dancing.

Its political purpose is to assemble the largest possible demonstration of disgust at the sectarian divisiveness of the two main French workers' parties and to af-

firm the need for unity of the workers' movement against the common enemy, the Giscard regime.

Only two and a half years ago the Communist and Socialist Parties were calling joint mobilisations of hundreds of thousands of workers on this theme, now it is only Krivine's campaign which has put workers' unity to the fore. Because it has expressed the interests of the working class the campaign has had a fantastic response.

We're not predicting a Krivine victory in the May election, but we will put money on this being the best damn festival of any candidate — and a nationally important political event.

Socialist Challenge is organising pooled transport for those readers who would like to go to the festival. We have asked our French comrades about the possibility of accommodation. Let us know if you want to go and what transport you have (if any) by writing to SCD (Fete), PO Box 50, London N1 2XP.



News from the Fourth International

SC Events

SOCIALIST CHALLENGE: organisers' fraction on Sat 14 March at national centre.

WANDSWORTH: public meeting Poland with Oliver Macdonald — editor of Labour Focus on Eastern Europe. Tues 10 March at 7.30pm, Battersea Library, Lavender Hill, near Clapham Junction.

INTERNATIONAL Marxist Group notices

IMG MEMBERS: We urgently need you to fill vacancies in a variety of technical posts in National Centre. Any cdes interested ring Penny on 01-359 8371.

ANTI-RACIST: national fraction on Sun 8 March at national centre.

SOUTHERN AFRICA: solidarity fraction on Sunday 8 March in Manchester. Contact Dale on 01-359 8288.

STAFF NEEDED for The Other Bookshop. IMG cde needed with accounts experience or aptitude who could be trained. Cdes to do ordering and work on counter. Apply by ringing 01-226 0571.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS: Cards now available for members of Revolution Youth. All branches should place orders with national office.

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REVO 16: next issue underway, out for beginning of April. Get your branch reports in now.

11% won't pay the rent

By Alan Freeman

SIXTEEN thousand pounds! That's how much money we've received towards our £100,000 fund drive target. And we have promises from four or five hundred pound cheques from supporters who sold badges and organised raffles on the Glasgow demo.

Our Oxford supporters have found an effective way to bring in cash. They have visited regular readers and supporters of the paper to ask for a regular monthly contribution, if possible by standing order.

Backing

John from Oxford told us: 'We got a very good response. Everyone we approached has agreed to give something — some people over ten pounds a month. Many socialists see the need for organisation and know that our paper is fighting for socialism in the working class. They are willing to give us their backing

even though they don't want to become fully politically active.'

Organise

So far the Oxford comrades have orders or promises for £50 a month. But it had to be organised. They produced special standing order forms, drew up a list of people to visit, and made sure they were all discussed with.

But we're still behind our target for funds. Only 11 per cent of our local supporters' goal of £20,000 has been raised so far. So why don't you follow the Oxford supporters' example?

Just complete the

form accompanying this article to make out a regular payment to the paper.

Our thanks this week to the following contributors:

Ms Mackie	£1.00
Normand Dubé	0.50
Bath supporters	20.00
Camden	70.00
Lambeth/Southwark	150.00
Coventry	50.00
Words words words	9.00
Shelley Garigan	2.00
JR Blanco White	5.00
Kenneth Jackson	2.50
Cardiff supporters	50.00
Southampton	15.00
Huddersfield	70.00
Canterbury	10.00
Mike Holbrook	5.00
Claire Dismorr	5.00
E Singer	7.50
Edinburgh supporters	45.00
Reading	5.00
Outer West London	122.00
Wolverhampton	9.00
H Wally	10.00
Anon	5,000.00
Hemel supporters	5.00
Leeds	33.00
Oldham	24.00
Mary Long	1.00
Anon	100.00
Hackney supporter	150.00
Swansea	30.00

SOCIALIST CHALLENGE BANKER'S ORDER FORM

Your Bank

Name of Account to be debited

Account Number

Our Bank Socialist Challenge

Lloyd's Bank, 19 Upper St, London N1.

Account No 0179678

Sorting Code 30-94-57

Amount to be paid Monthly

First Payment due And on the same date in the month thereafter.

Signed

J Nudger	0.40
Anon	8.96
Manchester	5.00
Total	£6,114.86
Accumulative Total	£16,302.23



WHAT does every militant need for the TUC week of action, the forthcoming local elections, in the Labour Party and on the picket line? A 'Kick out the Tories' badge. 20p each plus p&p.

Why not get your local Labour Party, union branch or trades council to order them and make some money at the same time? Bulk orders (20 or more) 15p each, free postage.

Send orders to Socialist Education Fund, PO Box 50 London N1.

Sales Day — a step forward

OUR supporters ordered a grand total of 1,800 extra copies of Socialist Challenge for local sales on the national sales day, 21 February. Hundreds more were sold at the Glasgow march.

Edinburgh supporters topped the league with 300 sales and Manchester supporters sold 250. In Brent, supporters used the opportunity of our interview with Michael MacAliskey to sell round the

local Irish pubs.

In Manchester, supporters used the report on the Schreibers' struggle to sell 64 copies to the workers in the factory, with the help of the factory convenor who came out to lend a hand. That means one out of every four shop floor workers bought a copy.

Hackney supporters decided to try a brief experiment — a one-hour sale on a council estate. This netted 27 sales, a great beginning. Now the comrades are planning a big shift of

their resources to estate sales.

Local Socialist Challenge sales organisers will be meeting on 14 March to assess the national sales day and plan future events. During the TUC week of action in April we hope to focus efforts on workplace sales, while in May in the run-up to the council elections our sellers will be concentrating on housing estates.

All our local supporters should make sure they send a representative to the 14 March meeting.

Preston Trades Council makes headlines

By John Parkinson, secretary,
Preston Trades Council

IT IS now 18 months since Preston Trades Council decided to establish its own journal, *Preston Worker*.

It was a decision easily justified by the media reaction to the 'winter of discontent', but it also reflected dissatisfaction at the bureaucratically-controlled trade union press.

We have produced five issues of the 20-30 page journal, with a print run of 2,500-3,000 copies. This has been based on sales to shop stewards committees, union branches, and at many political and trade union functions.

Such has been the response to *Preston Worker* and the associated printing operation that the trades council recently agreed to help establish a printing co-

operative with its own premises in the town centre.

This move was designed to cater for a rapidly expanding printing shop which has outgrown a backroom in a house, and also to act as a focus for trade union and socialist activity in the district.

The initial operation had small beginnings. The expertise of a former printworker and an active, campaigning trades

council led to the purchase of an A4 printing press, the raw materials for Letraset layout, platemaking (at first with the help of the local poly), and printing.

With the trades council and other campaign bodies swamping Preston in leaflets, and with the warm, if surprised welcome that *Preston Worker* received, the attraction of the printing operation and the trades council grew.

Orders for cheap printing flooded in from Labour Party wards, trade union bodies, and for factory bulletins. Even booklets on health and safety, labour history, and Vietnam were churned out.

The turnover grew and grew, until it now stands at five times the

budget of a relatively well-heeled trades council with 20,000 affiliated members.

We have provided access to people who would otherwise have been unable or unsure how to proceed. Two other trades councils have now established printing operations as a direct result of our efforts, and several others are following closely.

The most striking aspect of the whole operation has been the latent talent that has been discovered. People who would walk miles to avoid machinery, or who claimed two left hands, now happily apply themselves to design, layout, and machine repair and operation.

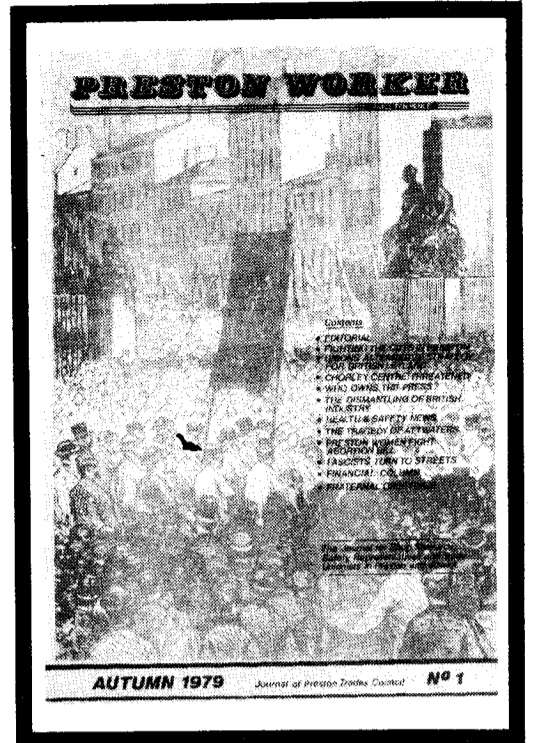
The flood of ideas and energy has not been

confined to the practical field. After all, design and layout are all about how to formulate and present ideas. The production of *Preston Worker* is a battleground over content, style, and direction.

Putting resources under the control of rank-and-file trades unionists has given us the chance to put ideas and experiences into practice.

We are also backing the media working group which has just been established by the Lancashire Association of Trades Councils, to come to grips with media bias.

Further information from: John Parkinson, 28a Whitby Avenue, Inghol, Preston, Lancs. Tel 0772-731089 (5pm-7pm).



'Facelift Apartheid'

Knocking Botha for six

By Charlie van Gelderen

THE furore over the England cricket team in the West Indies has brought apartheid in South Africa back into the news. The British sporting authorities and the government argue that things are improving for blacks in South Africa. CHARLIE VAN GELDEREN reviews a new pamphlet which disproves that myth.

The white nationalist regime of Pieter Botha claims that it is trying to humanise the obnoxious racist system known as Apartheid.

South Africa's leading capitalist, Harry Oppenheimer, who is head of Anglo-American, urges the government to speed up the process otherwise matters may be taken out of the hands of the ruling class. The workers of South Africa will solve matters their own way.

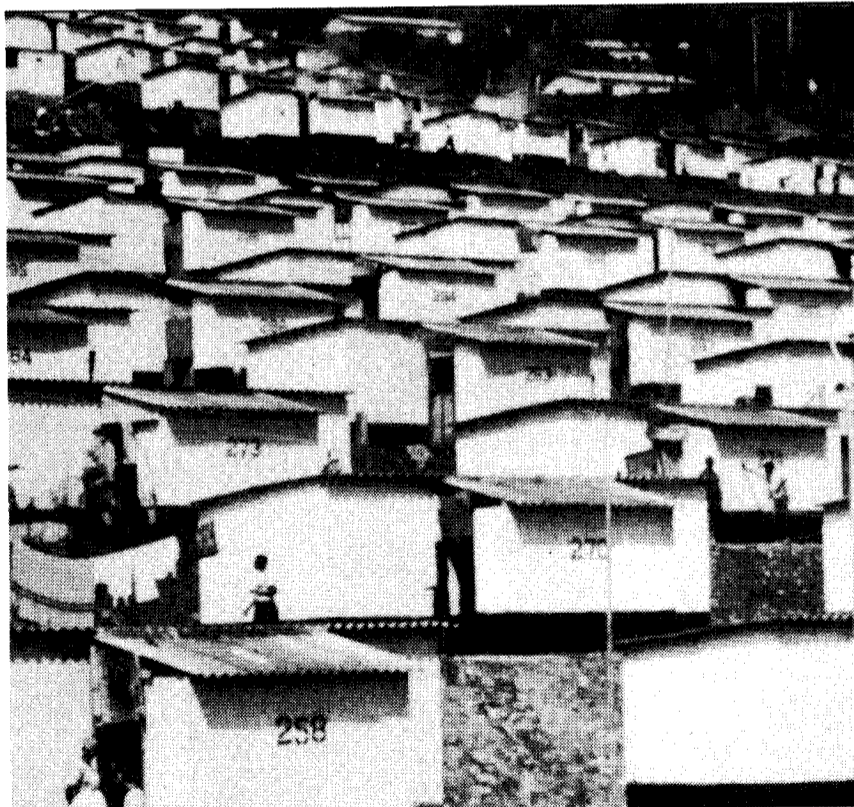
This is no idle threat. On 16 February the Afrikaans-language newspaper *Die Vaderland* reported a survey finding that the majority of blacks in Soweto favoured revolution as the best and surest means of improving their lot.

Judy Seidman's valuable pamphlet *Facelift Apartheid* gives a comprehensive review of the 'concessions' which the government has made towards its alleged goal of 'achieving equality for all people before the law and equal chances and opportunities', to quote Piet Koornhof, the Minister of Co-operation and Development.

Soweto

The first moves were made by the Vorster government when it set up community councils for black urban residential areas. The enthusiasm for these in the black community is indicated by the elections in Soweto in 1978, when only 5 per cent of the 200,000 registered voters went to the polls.

The survey reported in *Die Vaderland* showed that the chairperson of the Soweto Council, David Thebali, enjoyed



The workers of South Africa will solve matters their own way

the support of only 2 per cent of the township residents.

Botha even hinted a couple of years ago that he was prepared to revise that section of the Immorality act which forbids miscegenation and mixed marriages. That was in 1979, since when he has made a hasty retreat under pressure from his rank-and-file and the Dutch Reformed Church.

The crowning edifice of this 'liberalised apartheid' was to be the new constitution, designed to give the 'coloured' and Asiatic communities (but not the blacks) a share in the government. It left real power in the hands of the white assembly

which alone can pass legislation, while the State President retains residual powers of veto.

The pamphlet shows the reality of the 'concessions': 'The creation of a privileged stratum of Africans ... has an unavoidable corollary — the rest of the African population must be even more firmly controlled.'

Bulldozed

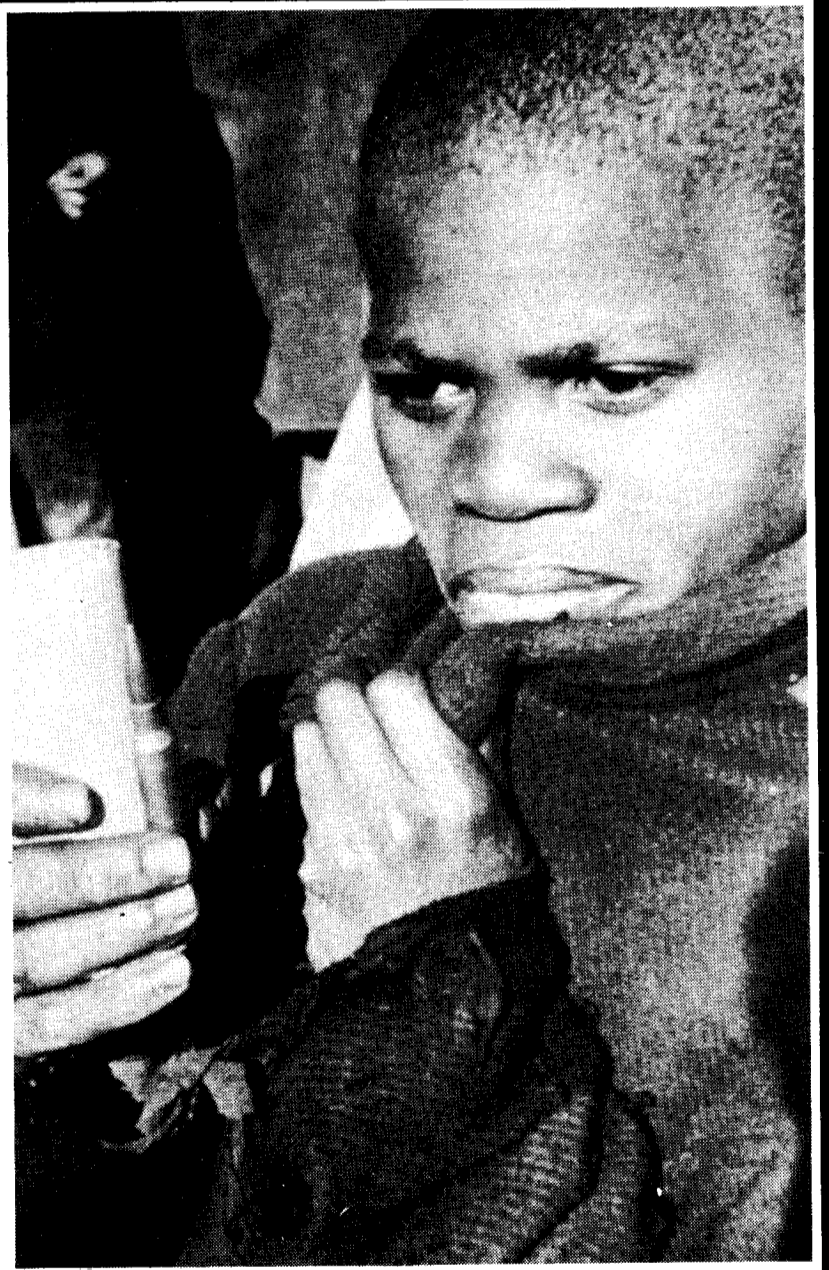
Influx control has been tightened; pass arrests have increased; shanty towns like Modderdam, near Cape Town, and Unibell have been bulldozed. The government's threat to wipe Crossroads off the map has only been held

up by international pressure.

Detentions, bannings, political trials continue unabated; restrictions on press reporting have increased; black papers have been banned; black journalists have had banning orders placed on them.

The author quotes Rear-Admiral Edwards, of the South African defence force: 'Time is running out — time has run out. I don't think we have five years to play with.' 'This pessimistic statement,' she writes, 'was made two years after Soweto.'

For the black workers in southern Africa, for revolutionary interna-



nationalists everywhere, it is a reason for optimism. The apartheid regime is beginning to show the first doubts in its capacity to govern, one of the basic precepts for a revolutionary situation.

What is now required is for the working class of South Africa to equip itself politically and militarily to assail this last stronghold of imperialism in Southern Africa. And it is for us to break Britain's connections with apartheid.

'Facelift Apartheid — South Africa after Soweto' by Judy Seidman. International Defence & Aid for Southern Africa, price £1.20.

Other
THE BOOKSHOP
Chris Beer, Roland Jeffery and Terry Munyard
Gay Workers: trade unions and the law
NCCL, £1.20

This pamphlet, with an introduction by Tony Benn, examines the ways in which employers discriminate against gay workers and proposes ways for trade unions and gay organisations to challenge discrimination successfully.

Anna Coote and Peter Kellner
Hear this brother: women workers and union power
New Statesman, £1.50

All books available from The Other Bookshop, 328 Upper St, London N1 2XP. Please add 15% to each title if ordering by post.

Crowning the family

By Our Court Reporter

'PRINCE Charles has found in Lady Diana a ready-made mother for his children... I guarantee she has nothing to be ashamed of hidden in her past...

'He is a person of varied experience — he will be able to form her to his tastes — she is a perfect physical specimen and will be able to have many children without difficulty.'

From the doting daddy of Diana, the gaggle of gossip columnists, and the court of the Second Elizabeth comes the real significance of the Royal Bedding.

It is not a story of romance and fashion but a tale of dynasty in which yet another young woman is acquired for her pedigree and breeding potential.

When the world was young, women and men dallied with whom they wanted. Then certain restrictions were imposed — only with someone from the next village or only with someone with a different mother...

When some men started accumulating more cattle or more gold than others, they wanted to keep their property in their clan and to be sure that their children were really theirs and not someone else's. So they invented Marriage and Virginity and Monogamy (for the women).

Exclusive access to their women was very important to these men who owned things — it didn't matter very much to the non-owning classes or to women — for whom it was very boring.

Through the centuries these men elaborated the ways of marriage. Some men had many



wives, some had only one but many mistresses, concubines or slaves to satisfy their sexual appetites and show their wealth and power.

In order to justify their control of women they declared that marriage and monogamy — for women — was a god-given commandment and that all men and women should behave likewise. And the governments and the churches and all the leaders of society agreed and gave voice.

It took a long time before love and romance had anything to do with marriage. In the days of Knights and Ladies, for example, these emotions, had nothing

to do with one's husband or wife.

Marriage was for having children, passing on the Lord's name and property. Wives were not selected for their personality, but for their ability to bear children, sometimes their wealth — the bride-price, political alliance, or management capabilities. Running a castle was a big deal.

When the 'Age of the Common Man' arose with the democratic revolution in France and the United States, ideas arose of women having a choice about whom they married. This became common currency in the West, although it's still rare in the East.

The House of Windsor, which rests on other great British institutions like the Church, the government and the army, has one overriding interest: the maintenance of the monarchy and the private property system.

By its promotion of traditional values, especially around the family; by demonstrating devotion to duty, it provides a glorious example of how we should all behave.

It is hoped that the alliance of Charles and Diana will see this ideology well into the 21st century.

So while the dole queues lengthen and misery abounds, while the battered women and children cry out for help, we can all look to the Royal Wedding to see that life can be beautiful, women can be serene and gracious, men strong and gallant — and why should we think of changing one damn thing?

Celebrate!

By Toni Gorton

INTERNATIONAL Women's Day is a day born out of struggle — from a strike in the New York garment industry in 1908, which came about because 129 women had died in a fire at their workplace.

Throughout the years women have used this day to unite in action on the issues they have considered important: war, food, suffrage, abortion, childcare, equal pay, prostitution...

International Women's Day, 8 March, needs to be re-established in Britain as a day of working class solidarity and celebration of women's struggles — led by women. The day is too important to fall victim to sterile debates over the exclusion of men.

Despite the elevation of women like Margaret Thatcher or Indira Gandhi, life offers little for the majority of women in the way of status, power or financial stability.

The austerity programmes of all the Western governments are hitting hard at the services women need, such as care of the elderly and children and decent housing.



**INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S DAY
8 MARCH 1981**

Soaring unemployment is hardest on women, since our lack of skills and education — and the myth that women's place is in the home — makes us most vulnerable.

In the under-developed countries women and their children suffer the effects of poverty, malnutrition, disease and political repression of a most savage kind.

In China and the non-capitalist countries of Asia and East Europe women lack the political structures to make their demands felt.

The sexuality of women and men is suppressed by the Chinese state in order to keep the birth rate down. In the Soviet Union, motherhood and fertility is glorified in order to increase the birth rate.

It was women textile workers in Petrograd marching on women's day 1917 who sparked off the February Revolution which overthrew the Czar and led to the Russian Revolution. Women won many rights in the early days of the revolution which later were overturned or distorted in the Stalinist take-over.

Today Soviet feminists are attempting to make their voices heard: some identify the rulers of the Soviet Union as the cause of their oppression and turn to mysticism — others believe that only a truly democratic and socialist system can liberate women. Their fight to be heard, whatever their solutions, should be supported.

In many countries women are a vital part of their national liberation struggles. In Nicaragua, El Salvador, Eritrea, and Grenada women are organised as women to ensure that their special demands are part of the revolutionary programme of reconstruction.

Women's fight for rights over our bodies continues to be a major political issue. The international day of action called by the International Abortion, Contraception, Sterilisation Campaign on 16 May will be joined by women in more than 30 countries in solidarity with all women fighting for the right to decide.

In the industrial countries, women are pushing into non-traditional areas of employment — in the mines, in cars, in steel, in rail. They are confronting the conservatism of the labour movement, anti-women labour laws, and their own feelings of inadequacy.

But their drive for jobs is increasing their self-respect, the respect of the labour movement, and is placing them at the centre of some of the big battles of the working class.

Our names may be little-known but we are engaged in the heroic struggles that created women like Harriet Tubman, Mother Jones, Elizabeth Blackwell, Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, Sojourner Truth, Sylvia Pankhurst, Marie Stopes, Rosa Luxembourg, Clara Zetkin, Alexandra Kollontai...

As well as supporting this year's events, we should commit ourselves now to fight through our women's organisations, the trades unions and the Labour Party for a massive demonstration on 8 March 1982.

Why abortion isn't a women-only issue

By Judith Arkwright

SOME 350 women debated the central issues of the abortion campaign at a national forum on the politics of abortion held on 22 February.

Because of the Tory attacks on the health service and women in general, the lack of abortion facilities was a major topic of debate and one on which many local groups are active.

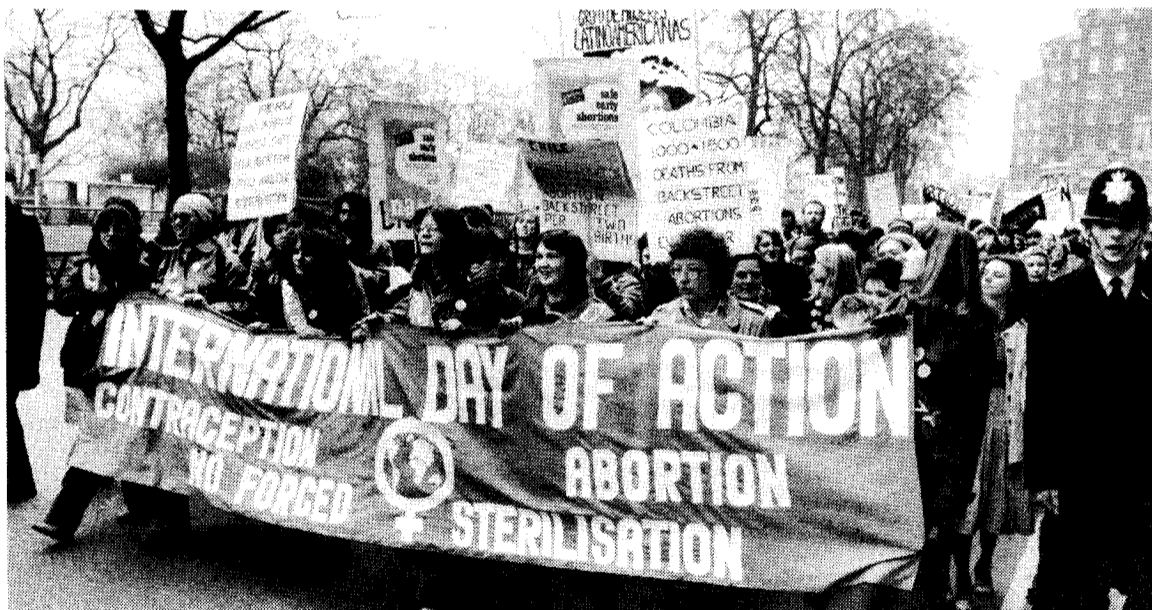
Despite the successes of the movement against the Tory MPs John Corrie and Timothy Sainsbury, the campaign has to be drawn together at a national level to push for new laws.

Some sisters at conference saw the need to fight for a facilities bill and other legislation as a vital political focus, and in particular the need to develop labour movement support since their demands could not be met without it.

View

Many disagreed with this view and argued that the abortion campaign should exclude men since this is not an issue for them.

The National Abortion Campaign has to be an open campaign. It should not exclude anyone who is prepared to fight for abortion rights. The fight to choose is an issue for the labour movement because it is a basic



Women from over 20 countries supported International Day of Action in 1979.

International Day of Action

Solidarity with all women fighting for the right to decide

In London 16 May there will be a festival of international women speakers, artists, and performers at the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1.

Sponsored by the International Contraception, Abortion, Sterilisation Campaign — Women decide.

democratic right and the future of the working class lies in the extension of choice and control to every area of life.

Proposals came forward that NAC should actively campaign on

contraception and violence against women.

Many issues that affect women have been raised in the course of the abortion campaign, but still the main way that the ruling class in this country seeks to control women is through attacks on the right to legal abortion.

To expand the National Abortion Campaign into a multi-issue women's campaign would disarm us on the issue of abortion.

What is needed is to build a stronger NAC and to fight for the labour movement and other organisations to develop the struggle on other issues.

The forum didn't come up with clear projects, but the women and the enthusiasm were

Labour executive backs abortion conference

THE Labour Party national executive is supporting the abortion conference to be held in London on 14 March. It has been called by the National Abortion Campaign and the Labour Abortion Rights Campaign.

This backing will mean that the fight on health service facilities, decriminalisation, and positive rights will reach the centre of the labour movement, establishing a firm basis for committing the next Labour government to change the abortion laws.

Make sure you're at the conference. It is at Starcross School, Rising Hill St, London N1, and begins at 10am. A crèche is available. Further details from: NAC, 374 Gray's Inn Rd, London WC1. Tel 01-278 0153.

there, indicating the enormous success of the campaign recently. The

Labour Movement conference on 14 March will be another step forward.

A festival of women's past and future struggles

By Cathy Porter

TEN years ago, the growing women's liberation movement celebrated International Women's Day with rallies in London, Glasgow and Liverpool.

The 5,000-strong demonstration in London was headed by a group of night-cleaners, several Transport Union banners, and a number of men.

We demanded equal pay, equal education and job opportunities, free 24-hour nurseries, and free contraception and abortion on demand.

International Women's Day started in February 1908, when women in the needle-trade in Manhattan's Lower East Side came out on strike. Socialist women in the United States decided to celebrate the day as an annual political holiday, a day when 'women could demonstrate to stamp out the last vestiges of male egoism and the desire to dominate'.

Two years later women in the Socialist International organised a conference on women's suffrage and the campaign against the imminent war.

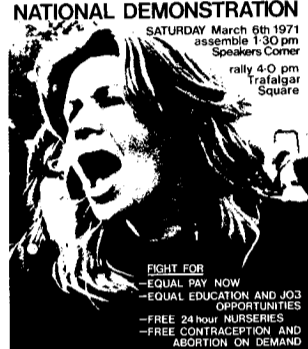


Susan Mthemba

These two themes became the rallying cry for International Women's Day. Over the next four years there were 8 March demonstrations in Germany, Scandinavia, Switzerland and Russia.

These not only brought women into confrontation with governments and militarists but also with chauvinists in the workers' movement. As a result women, especially in Germany, were soon playing a leading and radical role in the socialist movement.

WOMEN UNITE



Leaflet from 1971 Women's Liberation demonstration.

Quite unexpectedly, vast demonstrations for the vote for women took place in Austria and Germany in 1911. When police began to violently break up a demonstration of 30,000 women in Vienna, a group of men intervened to avoid bloodshed. In other places men supported the women by staying at home with the children.

The following year women in Switzerland and Sweden won the support of their socialist parties for women's day suffrage parades, and by 1913 it was being celebrated in Russia.

In 1914 the international was smashed under the impact of the war. Its various parties lined up with their governments rather than remaining faithful to the unity of the international working class.

Only the women's secretariat kept its integrity and organised 8 March anti-war demonstrations in the neutral countries and a conference of women from both neutral and warring nations.

In 1917, International Women's Day became the first day of the Russian Revolution.

The Vyborg district Bolshevik committee had issued a directive opposing all strikes.

Ignoring this, women textile workers from several factories went on strike and sent delegates to the metal workers for support.

Eventually the Bolsheviks agreed to support them as well, followed by other political tendencies.

When workers were locked out of an armaments plant that day, women drivers at the trolley terminus prepared for a general strike and they sent a delegate to the soldiers camped nearby.

She returned with their promise not to shoot if a strike became general — and so the rest of the transport workers promptly came out. Traffic ground to a halt.

By midday the wives and mothers of soldiers, the



downtrodden and the prostitutes, were abandoning the bread queues, smashing up the bakeries, and surging through the city streets.

Gathering passion and confidence over the next few days, they began to storm the officers' barracks and seize their guns. The factories stopped. The 1917 revolution had begun.

On Women's Day in 1926 women in Shanghai came out on strike and started an insurrection in which they fought on the front line.

In Britain on that day, the General Strike inspired hundreds of women workers to demonstrate in Manchester, London, and Shipley.

In 1929 in France, women munitions workers joined miners' wives in anti-war



Militant women lead the strike at Chix, Reading in 1980.

rallies. But the war drive continued.

With Hitler slashing women's sick pay and maternity benefits; Mussolini invading Abyssinia; Franco littering Spain with concentration camps, and Japan invading China, International Women's Day in 1936 linked demands for suffrage and equal pay with the call for a popular united front against fascism.

That year Italian women with their children lay across railway lines and invaded army barracks to harangue the soldiers; women in Brussels demonstrated in support of Abyssinia; Viennese women protested to the Italian Am-

bassador; 20,000 Swedish women demanded that the League of Nations take sanctions against Germany; and there were large women's day demonstrations in Norway, Finland and Poland.

The largest demonstrations on 8 March 1936 were in the Soviet Union with meetings, concerts and socials in every factory, farm and theatre.

By that time Women's Day in the Soviet Union had become totally tied to general political programmes. It was used to promote the cult of motherhood and deny all the anguish of the burden of work and family responsibilities.

In 1930, for example, the slogan for the day had been '100 per cent collectivisation'.



attended two subsequent NAW conventions on 8 March under the slogans 'The world we want for our children' and 'Bring back our husbands from Korea'.

It was not until the rise of the new women's liberation movement that 8 March regained some of its old spirit, but it has become more peripheral in recent years.

In 1975, the United Nations had given our holiday its blessing. We worried then that it might be dressed up as a kind of glorified mother's day or lost in myths of revolutionary Petrograd.



Women sensitive to these fears felt that men shouldn't join the next year's march and organised a women-only contingent. Yet 8 March has always been a day when women demonstrated their anger and strength without men.

We are now beginning to see the real possibility of huge women's day demonstrations, on the need for strikes for equal pay, against the Thatcher nightmare, against Cruise missiles, against cuts in social services; to make it a day to remember our past and celebrate our strength.

Latin American Women's Organisation invites you to celebrate

International Women's Day, Sunday 8 March 6pm-10.30pm

The Africa Centre, 38 King Street, Covent Garden, London WC2.

Free entry. A collection will be taken in aid of women in El Salvador.

Speakers from the Africa National Congress, Chile, The FDR of El Salvador, Ireland. Latin American music, exhibition and food. Open to all.

Photo: PETE GRANT (Socialist Challenge)

Why the new hunger strike, by an H Block prisoner

Socialist Challenge has received the following letter, smuggled out of the H Blocks of Long Kesh:

The struggle waged by we Republican socialist prisoners of war to wrest political recognition from the imperialist regime in Northern Ireland once again ascends to the horrific reality of a hunger strike.

This situation could have easily been avoided had the government kept faith with its commitment to implement the solution promised to the last hunger strikers.

This solution was contained in a 30-page document which was presented to the hunger strikers; it was an honourable and principled settlement for all concerned.

However they (the British government) chose the path of perfidy, no doubt enticed by the thought that, with the loss of world interest and the huge momentum, our morale and determination would be weakened to the point of surrender.

But these unscrupulous, arrogant adventurers are very much mistaken. We will not dilute or forsake principle. We are political prisoners — the product of 800 years of injustice and oppression.

We experience undisguised political torture and we were jailed by a political judicial system which was introduced solely to remove those who oppose foreign rule in Ireland.

Socialist comrades, we must accept that our opponents entertain the belief that our support base has suffered irreparable damage, and therefore they must feel that they will not have to con-

tend with such a massive amount of political pressure again.

I do not expect you, our comrades, to submit to complacency. Your support emanates from political awareness, therefore it is solidly intact.

However, I do expect you to increase and expand upon your endeavours to politicise the English working class, if at all possible; and in doing so, to inform them of the grave wrongs which their government is carrying out on the Irish people.

Lastly I ask you to display the truth about the H Block issue to the English people, and I ask those decent working class people of England to mobilise in accordance with truth, and thus help save lives here in the inhumanity of H Blocks.

PATSY O'HARE, H Block 5, Long Kesh

To: The Editor - Socialist Challenge.
Patsy O'Hare
H Block 5,
Long Kesh

Comrade,
The struggle waged by we Republican socialist prisoners of war to wrest political recognition from the imperialist regime in Northern Ireland once again ascends to the horrific reality of a hunger strike.

This situation could have easily been avoided had the government kept faith with its commitment to implement the solution promised to the last hunger strikers. This solution was contained in a 30-page document which was presented to the hunger strikers; it was an honourable and principled settlement for all concerned. However, they chose the path of perfidy, no doubt enticed by the thought that, with the loss of world interest and the huge momentum, our morale and determination would be weakened to the point of surrender, but they are unscrupulous, arrogant adventurers are very much mistaken! We will not dilute or forsake principle. We are political prisoners — the product of 800 years of injustice and oppression. We experience undisguised political torture and we were jailed by a political judicial system which was introduced solely to remove those who oppose foreign rule in Ireland.

Should the Labour Party organise in Ireland?

THE Labour Party has produced a consultative paper on its Irish policy. A series of questions are posed and CLPs and affiliated unions are asked to submit their views.

Socialist Challenge is running a series taking up these questions, and this week we deal with the fourth question: should the British Labour Party organise in Northern Ireland?

THE discussion paper asks: 'Should we seek to replace sectarian politics with Labour and Tory politics? That is a loaded question, and it is a misconception to describe Irish politics as 'sectarian'.

Certainly the Northern Irish working class is divided, as is the Irish working class as a whole. Certainly these divisions approximate to religious differences. But it is the political divide which is important.

This political divide is and always has been centred on attitudes to the division of Ireland and the division of the Irish working class.

This is the fundamental political question in Irish society. Historically, any political party which has been ambivalent on this issue has disappeared at birth. Any new political party in Northern Ireland would have to take a position on this question.

If the British Labour Party were to organise in Northern Ireland, it would be quite clear what attitude it would be adopting.

British Labour would be saying it had a right to interfere in Northern Ireland, and that, by implication, any other British institution, up to and including the British state itself, has the right to interfere and to have a presence in Northern Ireland.

Politics

In other words, by organising in Northern Ireland the British Labour Party would not be seeking to 'replace sectarian politics', but rather would be entering such politics on the Loyalist side.



The Labour Party's consultative document

As to the prospect of working class unity, experience has shown that there can be no such unity until that which divides the Northern Irish working class, and the Irish working class as a whole, is settled.

The division is concerned with the unresolved Irish national question. There is only one way to solve that question, and that is to end it: by permitting the reunification of Ireland.

United

The prospect of a united Irish working class, with a political party of its own, would then be opened up.

Already the majority of unions which organise in Northern Ireland are affiliated to the Irish Congress of Trades Unions.

If trade unions find it possible to organise on an all-Ireland basis, enjoying as they do fraternal links with the British TUC while being independent from it, the same principles can be applied to the formation of an all-Ireland working class party.

Once partition is abolished the prospects for such a party would be tremendous.

THE TRIUMPHANT SHOUT OF ARMAGH

By Sarah Roelofs

ONCE again Irish prisoners are on hunger strike. Soon the first prisoner to take this action, Bobby Sands in the H Blocks, will be joined by women prisoners in Armagh jail.

In *The Armagh Women*, Irish feminist Nell McCafferty records their struggle so far, mainly in the women's own words; simple harrowing words that etch pictures of women almost destroyed, but finding the strength to fight back.

In Armagh jail a handful of women take on the might of the British state, with only their own menstrual blood, urine, diarrhoea and vomit as weapons.

Popular

This short but vivid book fills a vital need for a popular account of those women. It tells, too, of the days when 'things were not always so' — when special category status was won. All prisoners benefitted from the improved prison conditions.

Then in 1976 special category status was withdrawn, spearheading the British government's attempt to 'normalise' Northern Ireland. No war: therefore no prisoners of war.

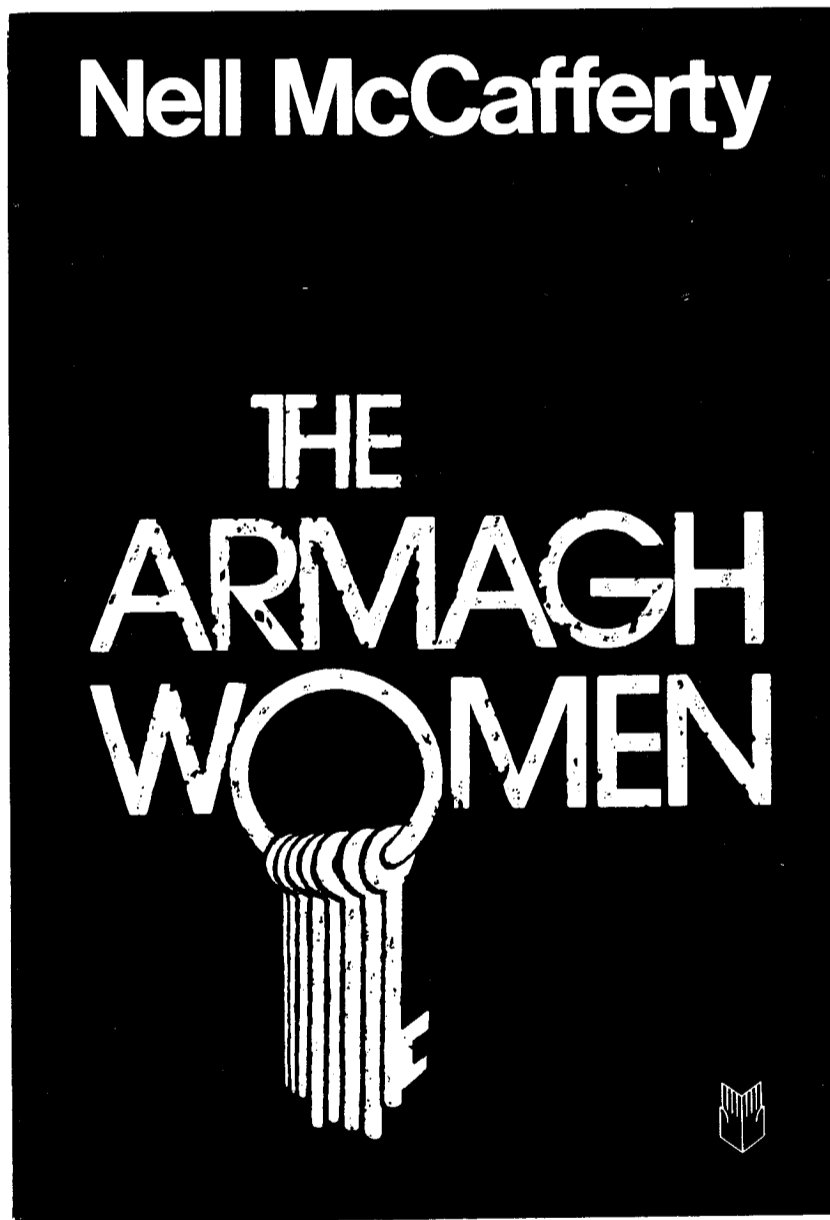
Prisoners like Rose McAllister, Ann Marie Loughran, and Eileen Mullan describe the war's effect on their personal lives and how they came to be actively involved in the nationalist struggle.

The women talk not just of the war and prison, but of their lives as women in the Northern Ireland battlefield, their marriages, their children, their hopes and fears.

Strength

The strength that comes from women organising themselves, supporting each other and fighting collectively as women for their independence both as women and as Irish people, shouts triumphantly from almost every page.

Rose McAllister: 'The attitude then was that the man you marry is your master. I fought for my independence against this without



links between feminism and nationalism, implicit in the women's contributions, are explicitly mentioned. This is a shame because it is the nature of these links that has become a key political question.

While extending our unconditional support to the Armagh women, what is to be our attitude to the nationalist movement to which many of them belong? Can we critically discuss that movement's attitudes to women? How do we do that while maintaining our support of Irish women?

More than ever there needs to be an open discussion of the relationship between feminism and nationalism. Unconditional support for the Armagh women should not mean that we cannot critically and constructively discuss the Irish nationalist struggle and its implications for feminism.

The Armagh Women, by Nell McCafferty. £1.50 plus p&p, from: Co-op Books, 50 Merrion Square, Dublin 2.

realising it...
'What I liked best about those years... was the way women in the area organised themselves into vigilante groups and such, blowing whistles and banging bin lids and picketing at the drop of an insult. The Brits are terrified of women...'

'It's important always to fight back and women have the staying power for that. It was women who blocked the traffic for the first time ever in the centre of Belfast, hundreds of women, sitting down and

singing... And the thing was, those women never realised how brave they were.'

'They never knew, really, how the area could not have survived, literally, without them... I wasn't aware that we women were making politics on the street. That's when my eyes opened to the political power of women organising among themselves.'

Nell McCafferty concludes her book: 'That powerful dynamic has been set off in Northern Ireland by the protest of the Armagh women political prisoners and

the support engendered for them.'

It is only in the last few paragraphs that the

To Armagh on International Women's Day

Demonstrate outside Armagh women's prison on 8 March.

Solidarity with women political prisoners

Further information from: Di on 01-691 8289

Coventry conference - all grass and no roots

By Pat Hickey

UNDER the title 'Building working class power', more than 150 delegates assembled in Coventry on Saturday to discuss the way forward.

The delegates came mainly from trades councils, public sector and white collar industrial jobs. It was a waste of a day. There was no voting on policy; there was no clear line of march; it is difficult to see what the delegates will do after the conference.

The conference was by-passed by events before it started. Coming a week after the miners had forced a U-turn on the Tories, and after 70,000 plus had demonstrated in Glasgow, it took no account of these developments.

The tone was set by the opening remarks of Ken Turner, president of Newcastle Trades Council.

He said the labour movement was unable to respond to the Tories' attacks, that the working class had lost confidence, and that the main task now facing the left in the labour movement was to rebuild 'where it counts, at the grass roots'.

He believed trades councils had a vital role to play in this process. The general line of the

delegates was that this had to be done by rebuilding working class organisations from the bottom.

Tenants

Instead of the 'vertical structure' of the present labour movement a 'horizontal structure' was needed, which linked grass roots organisations of workers, tenants groups, women's groups and so on. That was the way to build an alternative to the labour bureaucracy.

A great deal of time was devoted to the use of resource centres, to 'cross-fertilisation of ideas' and 'mutual learning situations'.

Speaking at the end

of the day Hilary Wainwright recognised the problems that the conference had faced. She put this down to the fact that working class organisations were not ready to discuss alternatives to the policies of Labour and Tory governments.

Power

The need, said Hilary, was to develop policies hinged on 'the disengagement from the problems of capitalism' and 'an alternative common sense to that of austerity.'

For the planners of conference the question was not which government was in power, still less what kind of Labour government could be in

power, but whether 'at the grass roots' there was an alternative to both.

The conference had the cart before the horse. Its inability to put forward any real sense of direction sprang from its refusal to deal with the question of the national direction of the labour movement, and accordingly to deal with the question of the leadership of the working class.

Rough

One disgruntled delegate drew the analogy of a group of people who had had a very rough ride in a battered old Mini, and, as a consequence, had built a very fine Rolls Royce. Unfortunately they had neglected to put an engine in.



World in brief

United States

UNITED States representatives at the United Nations last week opposed or abstained on six resolutions debated at the UN Human Rights Commission.

The crucial motion was one which condemned 'all totalitarian or other ideologies and practices' based on a denial of human rights.

The motion was passed by 38-0, with the US representative, Richard Schifter, abstaining. Schifter explained that he objected to the motion because it 'singled out Nazi, fascist and neo-fascist groups for international action'.

The five other resolutions not supported by the US called for international action against the racist regime in South Africa. Schifter objected to these because, he said, they would 'isolate a government and a people at a time when a process of change can be encouraged.'

Pakistan

Pakistan's military regime, headed by General Zia, arrested 150 leaders of opposition political parties last weekend. Those held were meeting to discuss a day of action calling for the restoration of democracy in

Pakistan

The arrested included Nusrat Bhutto, wife of the late Zulfikar Ali Bhutto whose government was overthrown by Zia in 1977. Bhutto was subsequently hanged by the military regime.

Demonstrations against Zia have taken place in a number of provinces. A student was killed by armed supporters of Zia in the latest protest in the Sind province. Zia has turned down demands for a general election on the grounds of 'unfavourable conditions'.

Brazil

THE president of the Brazilian Workers' Party, Luis Inacio de Silva, popularly known as 'Lula', and 12 other trade unionists have refused to appear in a military court in Sao Paulo.

The chairperson of the Sao Paulo branch of Amnesty, who last week announced the boycott, said that he and other defence counsel would also not appear at the trial because 'the cards are stacked'.

The trial has been barred to all representatives of the press. The charges the trade unionists face deal with their part in a steel strike in Sao Paulo last year. If convicted they face up to 15 years in prison.

4,000 more hospital beds at risk

'GOOD NEWS' was how Tory health minister Gerard Vaughan reacted to a recommendation that London's already hard-pressed health service should have a further 4,000 beds cut by 1988.

The recommendation is contained in a recently issued report from the London Advisory Group.

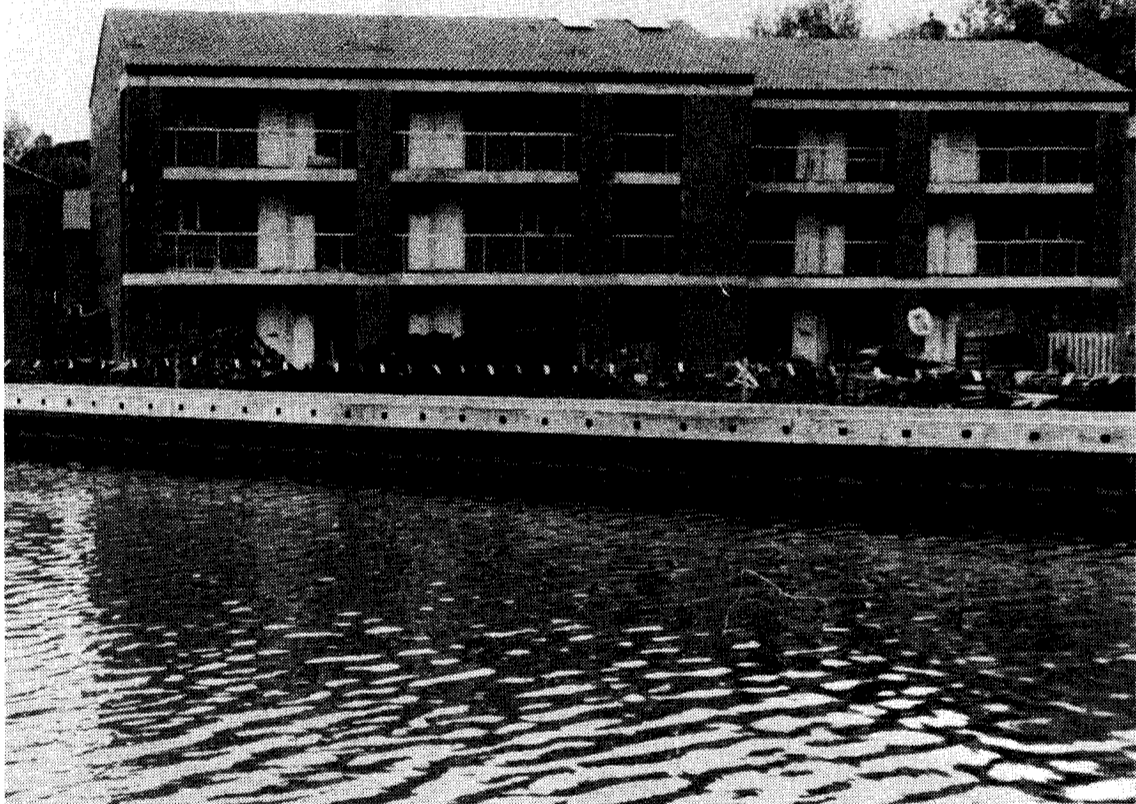
If carried out it will mean the end of general admissions to some 20 smaller hospitals in the capital. Instead, patients will be referred to teaching hospitals.

But these hospitals are already overcrowded. For example, St Bartholomews Hospital was recently described by NUPE official Ian Barber as 'bursting at the seams'.

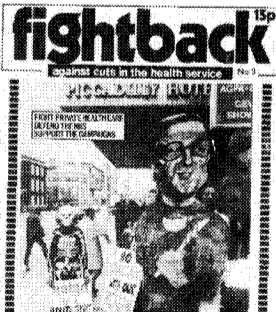
The proposed cuts will mean a 15 per cent reduction in acute medical and surgical beds. As *Fightback*, the national campaign against health cuts, puts it: 'This document is another part of the Tories' strategy to run down the NHS and develop private medicine.'

Gerard Vaughan has stated that 25 per cent of all health services should be provided by private medicine.

Fightback has launched a new campaign against private medicine. Further details, sponsorship and donations should be sent to: *Fightback*, 30 Camden Rd, London NW1.



Sherry's Wharf - occupied by Squatters Against Sales



Welcome to Liberation Square, London E9

By Piers Corbyn, London Squatters Union

THE mist wafted slowly across the water as the squatters surveyed their first morning at Sherry's Wharf, overlooking Hackney marshes in East London.

Squatters were fulfilling the promise they made when they were evicted from Kilner House - to take over more Greater London Council property due to be sold.

The newly-built flats and houses at Sherry's Wharf were occupied a month ago by a group of squatters and housing activists in SAS (Squatters Against Sales), in co-operation with the tenants and other local people.

The slogan was: 'Direct Action is the only language the Tories understand'.

The flats and houses were originally built for the waiting list - and then the Tory GLC decided to sell them. However, under pressure from tenants they modified their scheme and now intend to let properties at double rent.

It means a rent of £31 a week for a one-bedroom flat, and they will only be let to people who can prove an

income of five times the rent. Such rich tenants would no doubt then purchase the homes.

Support for the squat is extensive and reflects the deep anger in the working class against the Tories' policies of destroying public assets.

Local Labour GLC councillors joined in the celebration to rename Officers Mead at Sherry's Wharf 'Liberation Square'. Hackney Borough Council supports the occupation.

Court proceedings are now under way, but the squatters do not intend to comply with any eviction order made by the court.

Meanwhile the GLC is attempting to sell flats in Kilner House, South Lon-



Piers Corbyn

don, without doing the repairs required after police damage during the eviction of squatters.

So SAS is conducting a harassment campaign - such as 'super-glueing' the security locks in the building.

For more information on Sherry's Wharf and other squats contact: SWAG, Flat 16, Liberation Square, Kingsmead Estate, Hammersmith Rd, London E9. SAS can be contacted on 01-237 8277 or 01-379 6123.

Rubber workers under attack

By Pete Clifford

BURY rubber workers are in their second week of strike action over pay. Now management has bounced back with threats of 25 per cent redundancies.

John Morris, GMWU convenor from James Halsteads, told Socialist Challenge: 'We were offered a nine per cent pay rise subject to accepting average earnings for holiday pay rather than time and a half which we've had for a year. Day workers stood to lose £250.'

'The strike committee won 80 per cent support for taking action. So last Tuesday we occupied the factory and stopped all James Halsteads' tradings.' Then the struggle heated up.

Last Friday the management got a High Court injunction to remove the occupiers and on Saturday 25 per cent of the workers received redundancy notices, including the convenor.

Tony Lyno, GMWU branch secretary, summed it up: 'This is a Michael Edwardes-style attack on union organisation.' Messages of support to: John Morris, 3 Black Moss Close, Radcliffe, Bury, Lancs.

Leeds victim of racist laws

By Pete Kirk

Leeds resident Jaswinder Kaur has become the latest in a long line of Asian women to fall foul of Britain's immigration laws.

She is facing imminent deportation and permanent separation from her three year-old son. She has also been threatened with violence by her ex-husband if she returns to India.

Jaswinder arrived in Britain in 1975. She was married the following year to a man who told her he had been a resident here for eight years.

But Jaswinder's marriage was a violent one and after being repeatedly assaulted by her husband she finally left him in 1979. Her husband was later convicted of assaulting her and was deported.

Now Jaswinder is also threatened with deportation because, say the immigration authorities, her husband was an 'illegal' immigrant in the first place.

Jaswinder's child however, will not be deported because being born here he is recognised as a British citizen.

Jaswinder has appealed against her deportation order, and a defence campaign has been mounted on her behalf.

Further information on the campaign, which urgently requires cash donations, from Friends of Jaswinder Kaur, Box JK, 29 Blemheim Terrace, Leeds 2.

Demo against Nationality Bill

A MARCH against the Tories' Nationality Bill will take place in the London borough of Brent on Saturday, 7 March.

The protest has been called by Action Against Racism, a locally-based black group which was formed eight months ago in response to increasing harassment by police in the Harlesden district of Brent.

The group is now organising against the Nationality Bill, and as well as a speaker from Action Against State Racism the demonstration will feature speakers from Southall Black Sisters and the Campaign Against Racist Laws.

Harlesden Anti-Nazi League is also backing the protests.

The demonstration assembles at noon, Roundwood Park, Robson Avenue, London NW10.

Socialist Challenge

Civil servants threaten Tory pay policy

By Stewart MacLennan, CPSA Glasgow DHSS and Keith Legg, IRSF (Stockton taxes)

THE biggest strike so far in the life of this government takes place on Monday — and the strikers are the government's own employees. Over half a million civil servants are expected to take part in a one-day protest strike against a derisory 6 per cent pay offer.

The Common Market's man calls out the right

By Fred Atkins

DESPITE Michael Foot leaning over backwards to keep them in the party, Labour's 'social democrats' have at long last split to form their own party.

The meaning of their politics has been graphically demonstrated over the past few days, not only by their decision to politically co-ordinate their activities with the Liberals, but by the policy proclamations of their leaders.

These policies include not only unwavering support for the Common Market, the corner stone of their existence, but complete support for NATO and the siting of Cruise missiles in Britain.

Faith

Most revealing of all was Roy Jenkins' profession of faith in a compulsory incomes policy to control the unions — backed by measures to 'weaken the financial position of strikers' (in other words to remove social security benefits).

If any doubt remained, these policies show the utterly anti-working class character of this new political formation. Its sole purpose is to try to rob Labour of a majority at the next election and impose some form of coalition.

The defection of the social democrats has many lessons for members of the Labour Party.

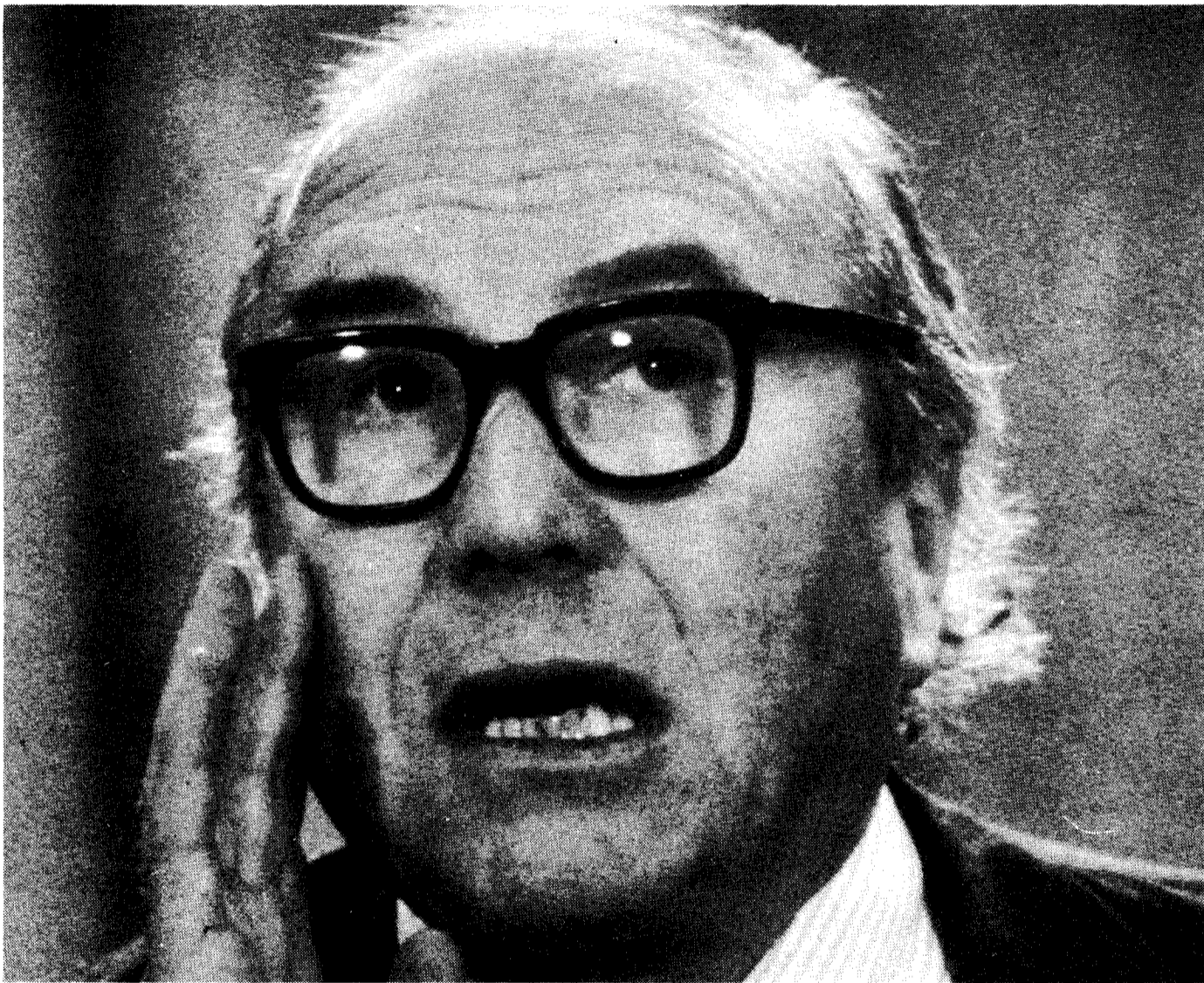
Traipse

Michael Foot pleaded with Shirley Williams to stay in. He traipsed along to a right-wing Manifesto meeting to assure the right that he would not force through unilateral nuclear disarmament, and that he would lead a fight back against the decisions of the Wembley conference on widening the franchise.

But to no avail. These pleas were treated with contempt by the right wing.

Far from being the result of the policies of what Peter Shore chooses to call the 'mad-cap left', the split of the right is the result of its determination to defend the interests of capitalism — inside or outside the Labour Party.

The way to respond



to the splitters is not by being intimidated, but to go forward in the fight for democracy and socialist policies.

Split

Fifty years ago, in 1931, Ramsay MacDonald split from the Labour Party to establish a 'national government'. Trotsky contemptuously dismissed him and his fellow traitors as the people who wanted to tie the workers to 'the rich, the lords, the establishment and their dinner parties'.

No description better fits Williams, Owen, Rodgers and Jenkins.

The problem remains that most of their co-thinkers remain inside the Labour Party. Roy Hattersley, presently leading the Labour Solidarity Campaign, agrees with the Gang of Four on virtually every detail of policy.

His avowed intention is to start a massive fight-back against the left in both the constituencies and the unions. The fight in the Labour Party is only beginning.

Will Hattersley be a fourth man for the Gang of Three?

As the party conference opens in Blackpool this week, Labour watchers are asking themselves whether the 'Gang of Three' — Shirley Williams, David Owen and Bill Rodgers — shouldn't have had a fourth reforming member: Roy Hattersley, another ex-Cabinet member.

Confidants of the trio tell me that Hattersley, Labour's Prices Secretary under Jim Callaghan, was somewhat miffed (in private at least) that they did not invite him to sign their open letter to the party, which threatened to form a breakaway social democratic group if the Left's advance wasn't stopped.

Indeed, Hattersley is reported to have told Williams and Co that he would have happily signed if they had altered an odd sentence or two.

Aficionados of the party's manoeuvring were wondering if the ambitious Hattersley would be declaring his public allegiance to the Three during the conference this week by appearing on the platform with them. Well, that was a rather different question. The likelihood did not appear too great. After all, when Hattersley was asked to join them at a fringe meeting at the TUC conference this month, he found his diary was rather full that day.

In an unprecedented show of unity, nine unions have called out their members in support of a 15 per cent claim, with £10 underpinning for the lower paid grades.

The consultative mass meetings held throughout the country guarantee that the strike will be a success. Never before has there been such a willingness from civil servants to take on the government.

Contrary to popular myth civil servants do have considerable industrial muscle. Try running an airport without traffic controllers or collecting government revenue without staff in the computer centres!

Local strike committees have been set up on regional lines throughout Britain. The CPSA and the Society of Civil Servants have disputes' funds to finance the action, and for some weeks the Inland Revenue Staff Federation (IRSF) has been raising thousands of pounds through a voluntary levy of its membership.

But what happens after 9 March is crucial. At the moment secret plans for selective strikes by key workers have been drawn up. The aim is to hit the government's revenue-collecting powers while still paying out to claimants.

Phil Dexter is a Data Processor in the massive DHSS complex at Newcastle. As someone likely to be called out on selective strike, he explained the problem with this strategy: 'About 200 of us will probably be called out and this will have a damaging effect on the DHSS operation here at Longbenton.'

'But there will be 8,000 CPSA members and 2,000 Society members here working normally. For the strike to keep up its momentum, they must be fully involved.'

The Council of Civil Service Unions should set a time limit for the selective action. If it doesn't succeed an indefinite strike should be called. There is no doubt that such an action would quickly paralyse the country and put the future of the Tory government in doubt.

The miners have shown the way to defeat the Tories — industrial action and solidarity from the labour movement. If the civil servants win, they will smash the Tories' pay policy and threaten the very existence of the Tory government. That's why every worker should rally to their support.

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