

# Militant

THE MARXIST PAPER FOR LABOUR & YOUTH

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## FIGHT THE TORY MENACE

### WHAT THE TORIES WOULD DO...

- Let prices rip by giving a free hand to the big monopolies.
- Slash spending on already inadequate schools, hospitals, and social services.
- Boost unemployment through public sector cuts and crude "Free-Market" policies.
- Hold down wages by ruthlessly limiting public-sector pay increases.
- Fetter the trade unions and ban effective picketing.
- Widen the huge gap between the rich and the poor by massive tax concessions to big companies and the super-rich.

### LABOUR MUST DEFEAT ATTACKS WITH BOLD SOCIALIST POLICIES

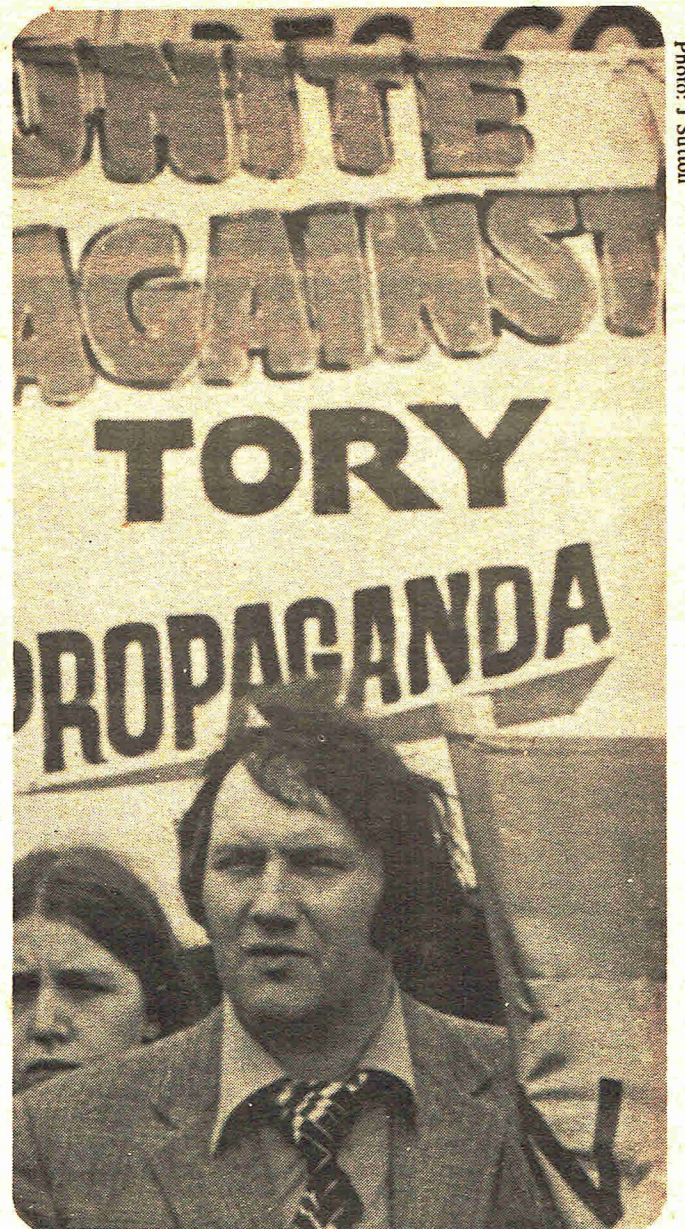


Photo: J Sutton

### DON'T BE FOOLED BY TORY JARGON



Question: When does an Iron Maiden become a Tin Goddess? Answer: When it comes to admitting the truth about what she is.

dren are at school... And Mrs T once claimed that she liked best of all "down-to-earth people. Men who call spades spades and don't talk in convoluted jargon... Jargon is often used to cloak ignorance rather than act as an elucidation of issues." [Sunday Times Magazine, 20 August 1978].

So it was when Mrs T advised Tory candidates to avoid using the phrase "cutting public expenditure"... It could be, "misunderstood".

Instead, she advised them at a meeting in London to use the more readily understood words "getting better value for money".

Now, she is advising her Tory candidates to disguise their real policies in...jargon! Remember...Tory honesty counts—sometimes.

All very nice and vote-catching—unless you are a public employee, or need a hospital! Or your chil-

**Kevin Ramage**  
(LPYS National Committee, Wales)

### inside...

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# Militant

## LABOURS MANIFESTO— A DISASTROUS RETREAT

The threat of a viciously reactionary Tory government, which would go all out to boost big business profits at the expense of workers' conditions and rights, demands a bold socialist programme to guarantee the return of a Labour government.

Inevitably, therefore, Labour supporters will have received Labour's manifesto with disappointment.

Socialist policies repeatedly demanded by Labour Party Conference have been completely excluded. The few radical reforms included in the draft Manifesto have also been dropped.

At the insistence of Callaghan and the right-wing ministers, Labour's campaign document blandly promises "more of the same". Yet the fall of the Labour government, the crisis facing the working class, and the combative mood of the active sections of the labour movement all point to the need for a fundamental change of course.

The Manifesto includes many welcome reforms: increases in pensions, smaller classes in schools, abolitions of private beds in the NHS, more nursery places, and action on housing.

We would support the implementation of these reforms. But the question remains: how will these improvements be paid for? The Labour government itself implemented £8,000 million of cuts in public spending—and the Manifesto contains no socialist economic measures which would provide the means of restoring these cuts and improving education, health and social services.

Nor does the Manifesto include any measures which would give a Labour government real control over the economy. Nationalisation proposals passed by Conference and accepted by the NEC's home policy committee have been dropped.

On the banks, for instance, the government will simply try "to stimulate competition" through GIRO and the NSB. This is a token measure which will do nothing to break the stranglehold of the big banks.

As far as the big monopolies are concerned, the Manifesto confines itself to repeating the proposals for giving force to planning agreements and tightening the Prices Commission. But without ownership and control of the "commanding heights", the economy will remain at the mercy of the "crude market forces" denounced in the Manifesto.

Without the ability to plan production, the aim to reduce inflation to 5% remains a pious wish. There is no clear promise, either, to bring down unemploy-

ment—simply a commitment [welcome in itself] to provide more help to the unemployed.

Conspicuous by its absence is any clear commitment to immediate implementation of the 35-hour week and a minimum living wage—vital demands which would ensure the enthusiastic support of millions of workers if boldly campaigned for.

The Labour leaders clearly intended to bring the EEC to the fore in this election. The Manifesto promised action to hold down EEC food prices, and hints at re-negotiations of the Treaty of Rome.

But while rightly pointing to the enormous burden thrown onto British workers by EEC entry, the Manifesto offers no real alternative. After all, at the time of entry, Labour's right wing argued that the EEC would be the solution to all our problems. But even if Britain were now taken out, there would be no automatic solution to the crisis of British capitalism.

On another key issue, the House of Lords, the Manifesto also retreats from Labour Party policy. Practically unanimously, Conference and the National Executive were firmly committed to the abolition of the Lords: yet the Manifesto merely calls vaguely for the abolition of its remaining powers of veto over the Commons.

This retreat is unfortunately symptomatic of a refusal to take decisive action on any issue which would touch the vital power and privilege of big business and the ruling class.

The Manifesto does include the long-promised wealth tax, which is certainly long overdue—it is a scandalous fact that taxation has actually become less progressive under this last Labour government!

Labour's right-wing leaders still have the illusion that they can remain within the framework of capitalism and nevertheless implement improvements in the conditions of the working class. Returning to some of the unfulfilled promises of 1974, the Manifesto again proposes reformism with restraints: but if Labour is returned, the inexorable pressure of big business will ensure that there will soon be a return to reformism without reforms—as under this last government.

The only way forward for the working class lies through the taking over of the banks, insurance companies, and finance houses, together with the 200 or so monopolies which completely dominate the economy. Nationalisation should be implemented with compensation only on the basis of proven need, and the industries run under workers' control and management. This would provide the basis for the planned development of production to provide for a dramatic improvement in workers' lives.

# FIGHTING FOR LABOUR

Photo: Andrew Wiard (Report)



LPYS members took part in a mass canvass last year in Lambeth Central. A similar, but even larger canvass is needed in Croydon!

## FIGHTING FOR SOCIALISM

Croydon Central is one of the most marginal constituencies in the country. The Tories hung on by just 164 votes in the last election.

The Tory MP is John Moore, national vice-chairman of the Conservative Party, a banker and stock-broking executive. The Labour candidate David White is a supporter of 'Militant'.

David White has an excellent record of fighting for socialist policies—on the GLC he defied the Labour whip in voting against rent and rate increases, and now on the Croydon Council he actively campaigns against the reactionary Tories.

David spoke to John Bulaitis [LPYS National Committee].

*What in your opinion, are the crucial issues facing the labour movement in the general election?*

Firstly, the burning need to prevent a Tory government coming to power, which would be a disaster for the rights and living standards of working people.

But secondly to campaign for the return of a majority Labour government pledged to socialist policies. We need

By  
John Bulaitis

more MPs prepared to fight for Labour Party conference policy to be carried out by a Labour government.

*The Tories control Croydon Council. As a Labour Councillor, what are your experiences of them?*

The Council is run by right-wing Thatcherites. We have seen on a smaller scale what a Tory government nationally would do. In the last year they have demolished or sold more houses than they've built, at a time when 6,000 families are on the waiting list!

They've cut back all the services, housing, education and social services. While at the same time they want to build a £5 million ring road through the town centre involving the demolition of hundreds more homes. They are so reactionary and ruthless in Croydon that when a council tenant dies they evict other relatives in the house unless one of the children is over 45.

The Tories are always

talking about 'freedom'. But in reality what they mean is freedom for the rich to jump hospital queues or to buy a privileged education for their children, freedom for landlords to evict their tenants, or for employers to sack their workers at will.

*What about their plans for the unions?*

The Tories are determined to attack trade union rights built up over decades. The trade union movement has always been at the forefront of the campaign for basic democratic rights. The right to vote, organise and strike, would not have been won without the struggle of the trade unions and labour movement. They are the only defence that working people have against the attacks of the employers. All attempts to take away what are basic democratic rights must be resisted.

*What sort of campaign will you be running in Croydon Central?*

We are fighting this election on a bold socialist programme—based on Labour Party Conference decisions—including demands for a 35-hour week, minimum wage, and highlighting Clause 4 of the Party's constitution.

We are pleased with the enthusiastic response from party workers and outside helpers, in particular the LPYS who are sending large teams into Croydon to canvass.

With an enthusiastic campaign we stand an excellent chance of winning the seat.

The campaign has started. On Friday, at very short notice, a meeting of the Trade Union Campaign Committee was well attended with representatives from the EETPU, G&MWU, COHSE, and UPW.

Seventy to eighty LPYS members turned out on Sunday for a canvass. There was an excellent response. At one house an Irish woman said that she was planning to return to Ireland at the end of the year, but if Thatcher wins, she would emigrate straight away.

At the next house another man came to the door and remarked "That woman (Thatcher) has got a bloody cheek. On television last night there were thirty pressmen watching her shopping...what does she know about going shopping?"

Yet another woman announced her intention to put a custard pie in Thatcher's face if she ever saw her in the shops! But a lot of work still needs to be done to get over the mood of resignation which is still prevalent and could lead to abstentions.

### MASS CANVASS

Help is needed canvassing every evening from 6.30pm onwards, at Ruskin House, Coombe Road, Croydon.

On Sunday April 22nd, a mass canvass will take place from Ruskin House at 10.30 am. For further information phone Croydon campaign HQ on 01-688 1378.

## Margaret Head... a fighter for the working class

It was with enormous sorrow that we heard of the death of Margaret Head.

Despite her disabilities, which confined her to a wheel-chair, she was one of the best, most sincere class fighters I have ever known. She provided a glowing example to our young comrades in her dedication to the struggles of the

working class.

With her considerable knowledge of social security she gave concrete help "on the picket line" to strikers in need and to their families. From Aloa, Ford's, Awco, firemen and many other sections of workers came asking for Margaret's help. Everyone will miss her.

Even during her long illness and her many stays in hospital, she carried on the crusade for workers' eman-

ipation. She began to organise patients and nurses, constantly explaining how they could help themselves.

Her hatred of Labour and union bureaucracy was only matched by her enormous courage and fight. Her disability did not prevent her active participation in the union and Labour Party.

She joined the Party after the war, but she only really came of age when she came into contact with the

'Militant'. Marxism came naturally to her.

Her comrades salute her magnificent courage and example. We will continue the fight to end capitalism and create a society that Margaret had struggled for... the end of exploitation and misery and the building of a harmonious socialist future.

By Rob Sewell  
(Swansea Labour Party)



# 1. MONEY TALKS FOR TORIES

The Tory Party are desperately searching for money. The Conservative Board of Finance have sent out a begging letter to businesses, both large and small, asking for help.

The Tory Party, financed by the millions of pounds of big business money, have the nerve to plead poverty in their fight against the 'rich' Labour Party.

"It would be tragic," they moan, "if we risked losing the election through shortage of money preventing us from launching the most efficient campaign possible, while Labour has the wealth of the unions behind them."

The moneybags have every reason to support their own representatives in the election. As our centre pages show, the Tories plan to bolster up the sick capitalist system by savage attacks on trade unions and by horrifying cuts in public expenditure.

The bosses let slip their reasons for supporting the Tories. They fear that "Should Labour be re-elected, we shall have a very different

government to the present one.

"It will carry out all the measures in the Labour Manifesto, including the 'introduction of a progressive wealth tax, the taking of powers to issue directives to companies on a wide range of individual matters and action to bring the state under democratic control (Obviously democracy is a dirty word for them-RS), and to use its wealth and income for the benefit of all'".

A frightening prospect, indeed, for the rich in a society where a handful of shareholders in a couple of hundred firms control the wealth of society for their own interests.

The director of the Conservative Board of Finance is Major-General Francis Wyldbore-Smith, educated at public school, and the ex-Chief of Staff to the Commander in Chief Far East

By Roger Shrivies

Command. Members of his family have interests in Ind Coope, one of the big brewers. He is a member of the exclusive Bucks Club and his hobbies are [naturally] huntin' and fishin'.

He's not exactly skint. Even less poverty-stricken is the Chairman of the Tories Finance Board, Mr Alistair McAlpine. He is a director of his family firm, Robert McAlpine and Sons, the giant civil engineering and building firm who have made quite a few bob out of motorways.

His firm are part of a holding company, Newarthill Ltd. They have other irons in the fire—property, hotels, aeroplanes, helicopters, etc, subsidiaries in the Bahamas, Cayman Islands and other tax havens. This company in 1977 was the biggest official contributor to the Tories with £27,380. In the last election year [1974] they donated £43,540.

As a further indication of the type of people behind the Tories, members of his family have directorships in the London Brick Company, the firm with a stranglehold on

brick manufacture, the Bank of Nova Scotia, publishers Weidenfeld and Nicholson, and others.

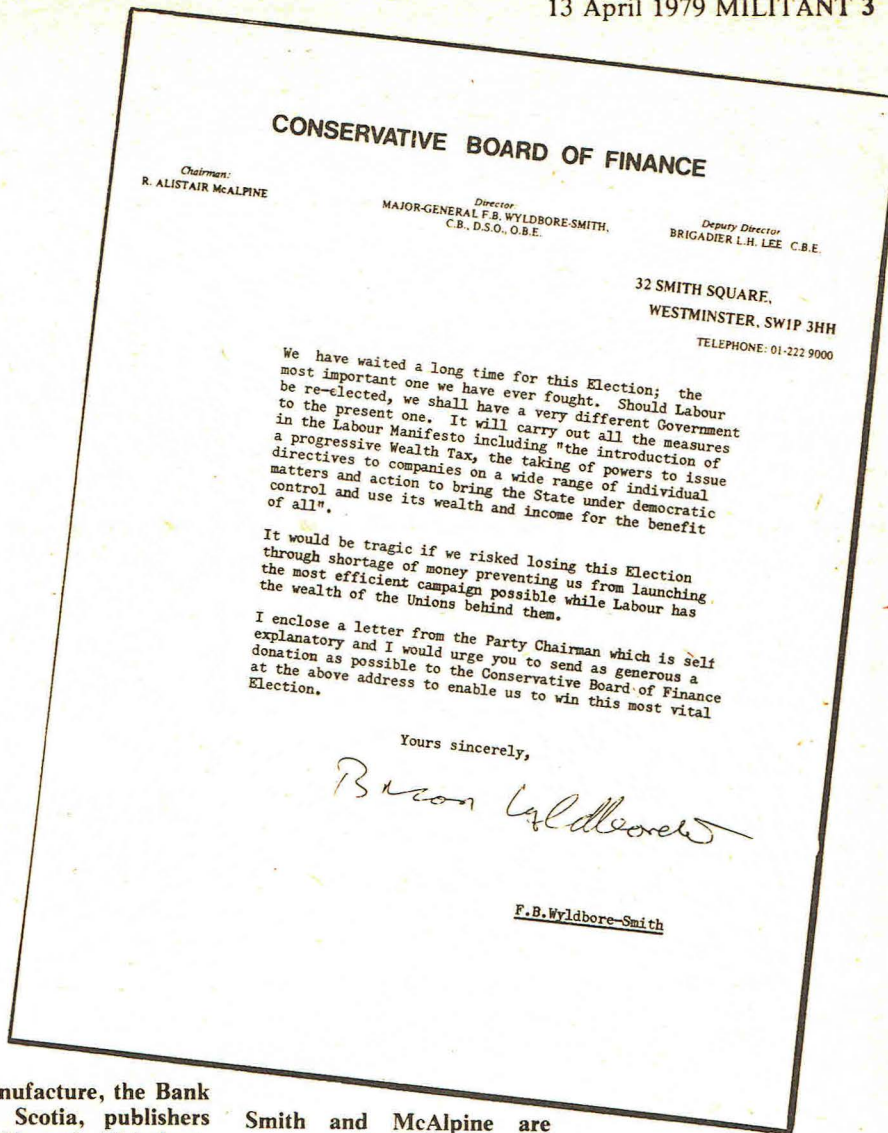
So next time the Tories and their puppet press fuss over the £150,000 given by the T&GWU, just think. Quite apart from the reams of free publicity given by the Tory media, the like of Wyldbore-

Smith and McAlpine are ensuring that millions of pounds flows into the Tory coffers to give maximum vent to their lies and distortions.

In 1977 [not an election year] companies gave £771,038 directly to the Tories, plus £452,226 to British United Industrialists who

channel money direct to the Tory Party.

It is estimated that the Tory election fund would be between £12 million and £15 million. A party for all the nation? No, just for big business.



# 2. FINANCING THE SOCIALIST APPROACH

Throughout the election campaign, 'Militant' and its supporters will be showing their fighting capacity, day by day and non-stop. They will be out to prove in action, on the doorstep, in the streets, at factory meetings that campaigning on socialist policies gets the results.

Seeing a change being fought for in the Labour Party, encourages working people to get out and give their support.

Now is the time to appeal to fellow activists to recognise "Militant's" vital role in the Labour Party. Ask them to make a special donation to boost its funds, and to get others to do the same. "Militant's" election pledge sheet, is designed to help every supporter collect cash.

Harlow supporters have produced their own appeal sheet to convince Labour supporters to "dig deep" and help 'Militant' step up the

fight against the Tories.

A 'Militant' "General Election Levy" sheet passed round the National Savings Bank office in Glasgow raised £41.25 within 48 hours of the election being announced! Nearly all the contributions from the CPSA members there were £1 or more. Well done!

The numerous 'Militant' meetings being planned for the coming weeks should yield record results with the biggest and boldest appeals for cash ever made! Also, with the vastly increased sales of 'Militant', we are expecting every seller to collect £2 to £3 each week just from extra pences given with the price of the paper.

Comrades with cars will "come into their own" as far as giving lifts to canvassers is concerned. "Fares for the Fighting Fund" should flour-

ish! So should the "pints for the paper", "coppers for the cuppas", and "silver for the sandwiches" before and after the election activities!

Why not have a bit of a 'Militant' party at your house for Labour election workers and make a little money for the 'Militant' in the process?

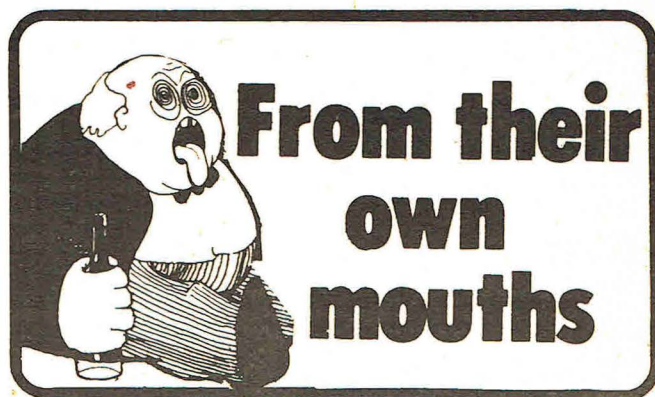
Organise a 'book' on the outcome of the election or a little local raffle, the sort of thing that can be left in

Committee Rooms and almost run itself—in aid of the 'Militant', of course!

Throughout the campaign every 'Militant' supporter must be 'armed', not only with plenty of "Election Militants", but with a notebook, collector's card, box, tin or bag to ensure maximum 'capital' is made out of their activities.

The more the 'Militant' has, the more it can produce—to assist every worker in the fight for socialism!

By Clare Doyle



## MARXIST IDEAS ATTRACT SUPPORT



Cathy Wilson, Labour Parliamentary Candidate, Isle of Wight

The way in which the ideas of Marxism, and the programme of the 'Militant' in particular, are continuing to grow in influence inside the labour movement was reflected on the Isle of Wight on March 31st when the Labour Party held its Annual Meeting.

'Militant' supporters were elected to the following positions: Chairman, Vice-chairmen [2], Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Organiser, Assistant Organiser, Trades Union Liaison Officer, Youth Officer and 14 out of 18 seats on the Executive Committee.

GMC meetings on the Island used to have great difficulty in reaching a quorum up to a couple of months ago and the average age of delegates was about 50. Now, thanks to the influence and hard work of the LPYS and 'Militant' supporters in the Party branches and trade unions, General Management Committee attendance has

doubled, the average age has halved, and party membership and trade union affiliations have steadily increased.

At the Adoption meeting following the AGM, 'Militant' supporter Cathy Wilson was unanimously adopted as the Labour candidate for the Isle of Wight in the General Election. The heightened political interest and awareness always generated by elections, and particularly this one, will give us on the Island a tremendous opportunity to spread the ideas of Marxism to the working class of the Isle of Wight.

Any comrades who might enjoy a "busman's holiday" on the Isle of Wight, which is nearly a marginal as we only need to gain an extra 22,000 votes to win, should contact: 10 Fairlee Road, Newport 526318.

By Brian Jones (Organiser/Election agent IOW CLP)

Twice during my political lifetime, the headline 'A Million Unemployed'—which probably meant at most half a million or so genuinely unemployed in a country with over twice that number of unfilled vacancies—stampeded us into policies which most of us must surely regret."

Sir Keith Joseph, speech on 15th January 1975

"It is not the existence of classes that threatens the unity of the nation, but the existence of class feeling."

The Right Approach (A statement of Conservative aims) published 1976, p14

"Restoration of our national prosperity will depend above all else on our industrial performance...But the fundamental problem has been the erosion of the cornerstone of the whole edifice of industrial enterprise — profits and profitability."

The Right Approach, p28

"A wider understanding of private enterprise and a greater identification with its success, should be accompanied by measures to liberate profits."

The Right Approach, p30

"Capitalism has its crises, the socialists used to claim."

Sir Keith Joseph, Freedom and Order, published by the Conservative Political Centre, 1976, p11

"There is room for argument whether the total burden of taxation is all that much greater in the United Kingdom than in other leading industrial countries."

from The Right Approach to the Economy: Outline of an Economic Strategy for the next Conservative Government by Sir Keith Joseph, Sir Geoffrey Howe, James Prior, and David Howell, 1977, p24



# Marching against S U S



Last Saturday's anti-SUS march in Brixton

Photo: J McKittrick MILITANT

## and police intimidation

"We've been waiting for someone to take this issue up for ages". This was the response of one onlooker as 350 members of the London Labour Party Young Socialists and Peoples National Party [UK] Youth demonstrated against police harassment of black youth, and for the abolition of the notorious 'Sus' law.

We marched through the streets of Peckham, Camberwell and Brixton on Saturday afternoon (7th April) chanting, distributing leaflets and selling papers. Even while we were marching the police

picked up a young black and in the build-up to the demo comrades giving out leaflets in one Walthamstow street found out that police were picking up black youth in another.

The response from the

local black community was enthusiastic. Blacks in Brixton, especially the youth, see the police as their enemy. Demonstrators were told of two thirteen year old black youths who had been picked up under 'Sus' the previous week in Brixton and taken into the local police station where their heads were forced down a toilet which was then flushed.

the police getting your photo and paying you a visit later?"

As Bob Lee, national secretary of the PNP Youth said at the rally in Brixton after the demo—The labour movement must show that it is able and willing to take up the defence of the black community against police harassment."

"The workers united can never be defeated", was one of the slogans taken up on the march. This is the way for the labour movement to take up this issue. "What faces blacks today will face workers in struggle tomorrow", Bob Lee continued. "If the Tories get to power and the bosses launch an offensive against the workers' movement, than this and all other laws giving the police powers of arbitrary search and arrest without trial would be brought to bear."

**By Kutay Erol**  
(Southgate LPYS)

At one point a betting shop emptied as those inside came out to buy copies of the 'Militant' and shout their support. An estimated 400 papers and hundreds of anti-Sus badges were sold to marchers and enthusiastic onlookers. But there was a certain hesitation about joining in the demonstration.

The comment of one older black woman was common: "Of course we're in support. There's a hell of a lot of people around here who are really frightened of the police. My sons have been arrested on 'Sus'. They pick up the youth for doing nothing."

Fear has bitten deep: "A lot of people are with you" she said, "but if we go on this march what is to stop

The Labour manifesto's vague commitment to review the law on 'Sus' (section 4 of the 1824 Vagrancy Act), with a view to repeal, must be strengthened to the total abolition of 'Sus' laws without replacement.

This means that all those involved in the campaign, and every worker, black and white, must take the struggle against police harassment into the ranks of the Labour Party and trade unions.

## ELECTION REPORTS

### HULL-BY ELECTION

In Hull, workers had their opportunity to record their feelings towards Thatcher right at the start of the general election campaign. And they did it in no uncertain terms. In a County Council by-election in Sutton Holderness Ward, Labour increased its majority with a swing of 12%.

Labour candidate Norman Kendrew boosted the majority from 552 to 1,573 over 1977, and that with a third smaller overall turnout. He fought a campaign based on outright opposition to the social service and education cuts mounted by the Tory-run Humberside County Council.

### SWANSEA

Swansea Labour Party Young Socialists has decided to begin its election preparation now. Along with organising leafletting and similar activities, we have made sure the name and address of the YS secretary, and details of meetings are available anywhere people might look. We have contacted local libraries, which have a list of local organisations, the citizen's advice bureau, and the post office.

In addition we are writing to all the ward secretaries asking them to take a few copies of 'Left' and the LPYS membership cards to keep on show in the committee rooms, so that any young helpers in the election know about the LPYS. We must make sure that young workers who are drawn into activity in the next few weeks become active in the Labour Party and Young Socialists during and after the election.

Carol Sewell, Swansea LPYS

### SCOTLAND

Minutes after the announcement of the defeat of the government in its vote of no confidence the LPYS were campaigning.

'Keep out the Tories' will be the main theme of our campaigning work. In the weekends before the election hundreds of LPYS members will pour into the key marginal seats of Leith, West Stirling and Lanark to mobilise the youth vote for Labour. Almost a dozen Scottish CLPs have agreed to issue a Youth leaflet with youth speakers on the platforms arguing for a Labour majority with socialist policies.

In Stirling a meeting organised with the barest minimum of publicity attracted five new people. Clearly if YS branches organise street level activity they are going to get a good response as youth begin to look for the Labour Party. Denis Canavan MP has agreed to have 20,000 youth leaflets printed and to have LPYS speakers at party rallies. In addition a major rally is being organised with LPYS speakers. This kind of activity can ensure that every single voter under 26 knows that Labour's Youth have an answer to the Tories and the system they represent.

Willie King, Chairman Scottish LPYS

there were 88 Labour promises, 6 definite Tories and 29 doubtfuls, unlikely to vote. But it was the enthusiasm to vote which was the encouraging thing.

One youngster just eligible to vote was unemployed. He had a job as a trainee carpenter. At eighteen, when he got the vote, and was eligible for the full rate he got his cards. He knew that his job prospects would dive if the Tories were returned: the YCAU campaign was right up his alley.

At another door an eighteen

year old voter wanted to know his chance of getting housing when he got married. 'None if the Tories flog off the council houses' was my reply.

18 "Militant's" had been taken with interest, not one Labour voter hadn't responded to the need for Labour to carry out a real socialist programme. According to my opinion polls Labour will win in a landslide if the working class is approached in a positive manner, and paper sales should top the million.

Bob Edwards [Harlow CLP]

"How England Threatens To Put Back The Clock Four Centuries" from the Dutch daily paper "De Volkskrant"



Hoe Engeland Dreigt De Klok Vier Eeuwen Terug Te Zetten

## BRISTOL TRIBUNE RALLY

"The basic issue in this election is whether we have a government of Thatcher and the Tories or a Labour government based on Clause 4 and Labour's programme, central to which is a fundamental and irreversible shift of wealth and power in favour of working people. This can only be achieved on the basis of nationalisation under workers' control."

Thus Eric Heffer summed up the situation facing the labour movement when he addressed a pre-election 'Tribune' rally in Bristol attended by 200 people. He went on to point out that the Liberal victory in Liverpool Edgehill which had been announced the night before was a direct result of the desertion of socialist policies by the Labour government.

Eric Heffer as well as Ron Thomas and Dennis Skinner who spoke later in the evening argued strongly that to overcome the continued failure to implement socialist policies by successive Labour governments we needed greater control over our leaders through reselection.

But unfortunately they tended to imply that as soon as we had automatic reselection, socialism would be an inevitable result—not pointing out that it would require a massive struggle by working people led by the Labour Party around a programme to take control of the economy by nationalising the major monopolies.

Indeed the impression was often given that apart from lack of party democracy the major obstacle to socialism was

Britain's membership of the EEC. Instead of calling for a socialist united states of Europe, speaker after speaker put forward the purely nationalist demand of British withdrawal from the EEC.

No speakers from the platform put forward a bold programme for a labour victory. In fact even the "Tribune's" 'Alternative Strategy', which amounts to little more than tinkering with the capitalist system in the hope of making it work better was hardly mentioned.

Tony Benn called for three major slogans 'Peace, Jobs and Democracy'. All of which are very desirable objectives, but none of which can be guaranteed without a socialist planned economy on a world scale.

It was Eric Heffer who quoted the German Marxist Rosa Luxemburg when he said "Socialism cannot be achieved by decree—it must come from mass action by the workers."

This is absolutely correct. Labour must organise a campaign geared to defeat the Tories and achieve a landslide victory for a government committed to changing society. But for that our approach must be:

- ★ Labour to power on a socialist programme
- ★ Nationalise the top monopolies under workers' control
- ★ For a society based on need not profit

Paul Moorhouse [Chairman Bristol NW LPYS]



# LEFT & RIGHT

## Trouble shooter

Mrs Thatcher has agreed to present the British Press Awards this week, maybe hoping she'll get some flattering publicity herself. One of the prizes goes to three intrepid journalists who helped to expose sanction-busting British companies who sold oil to the racist Smith regime in Rhodesia.

The activities of Castrol in particular came in for close scrutiny by the journalists, and the Binham inquiry. Binham reported that "since 1965 lubricants have been marketed in Rhodesia under the brand-name Castrol...we have since then pursued the matter with Castrol so far as possible but without obtaining any clear picture as to how these products reached Rhodesia."

Perhaps the honourable lady could fill in some of the details. Her husband, Denis Thatcher, was a director of Castrol Ltd from 1967 to 1976.

## Out of the frying pan

Bad news for all you golfers and squash players. If the importers don't lay off and we don't rally round and buy our sports' equipment from poor old Dunlop, top golfers will be playing with hard-boiled eggs, the world champion squash player might as well use a fly-squatter and Virginia Wade could be reduced to hitting out with a frying pan. At least that's what they say in Dunlop's latest £400,000 advertising campaign.

At the same time Dunlop are doing their best to close their Speke tyre factory, although they dominate 30% of the market. They say the factory doesn't bring them in enough profit. Perhaps with £400,000 invested in new equipment, it might stand a chance. If dole money doesn't stretch to buying a tennis racket it's not a disaster. But have you ever tried driving on plastic plates?

## Where he belongs

Sir Richard Marsh, ex-Labour transport minister and former head of British Rail, has proved what many railway workers always thought: he's no fan of nationalisation.

Speaking at the building supply bosses' annual luncheon, he pleased them all by giving his views on the Labour Party's policy of nationalising the building industry, for which: "I cannot think of one economic or managerial reason...it would be laughable if it were not extremely worrying." The Building Material Producers' chairman added that what they wanted was "a steady—not wild—increase in demand." And if too many people get decent homes...

The renegade Sir Richard intends to campaign for a Tory election victory. He feared the growing influence of the left in the Labour Party which "contains within it today many senior people who even ten years ago would not have been allowed to join." To put it another way: many Party members today are not willing to provide an easy ride to the top for Tories-in-disguise like Marsh and his friends.

# 'THE COMING CONFRONTATION'

REVIEWED BY  
THERESA  
APPLETON,  
LEEDS  
LABOUR PARTY

"Will the 'Open Society' survive to 1980?" That well-known "independent" organisation, the 'Institute of Economic Affairs', put this question to a number of notables and professors such as F A Hayek, Nigel Lawson [Tory MP], Jo Grimond and Raymond Fletcher [right-wing Labour MP].

The answers, in the form of short essays, have been put together in a paperback called 'The Coming Confrontation' [£2.50 from the IEA].

It is essential reading if you want to sharpen your arguments against the reactionary ideas and proposals put forward as a desperate means of halting the slide towards what the authors see as "collectivist" society.

These are the views of some very eminent strategists, concerned about the future of capital and the "free market". It is not a collection of rantings from ignorant bigots (at least not entirely), but of ideas which form the basis of the arguments used by the bosses and their representatives, especially as the election draws near.

The book has a tone of extreme urgency. The untam-

pered "market" can solve all problems, but it is being prevented from doing so by "monopolistic trade unions", a state which has now developed an "intolerable bureaucratic paternalism that is turning to inquisitorial tyranny," Marxist infiltration into every sphere of life and, according to the Duke of Edinburgh, "intellectual dissent and the reversal of trends".

## Union warfare

From the capitalists' point of view, the book is not very hopeful; some suggest that the process of "degeneration" has gone too far. In relation to the trade unions, they write: "The longer the disarmament of the monopoly unions is shirked, the more painful it will have to be..."

The unions are seen as an instrument through which

working people will change society, and as a result, over-ripe for destruction.

The concluding essay declares: "The decision is between confronting monopoly union power now, or drifting towards a still more imponderable and incalculable confrontation..." Trade unionists take note!

The position of women in present society is also acknowledged as being useful to the bosses. The woman, or "housewife", "is more concerned than the man with take-home pay..." because in looking after the family she is more occupied in spending it. Furthermore, "she is less exposed than men to accept mass decisions, or moral pressure, in factory, trade union or political meetings. She feels herself less a member of a group or class than an individual."

From this the bosses will obviously conclude that they should direct their appeals at women, cynically using the press and media to divide men and women as far as they are able and disorganise workers in conflict with the employer. They have already tried these tactics in the Ford and lorry drivers' disputes.

On the issue of "the market", the general arguments of the monied classes against the Labour Party and the unions are prepared.

People are not to be found at work, but buying or selling

on the "market". All is sweetness and light until the trade unions or the "state" come along and ruin it.

Health and education, purchased with "vouchers", are put up for sale along with consumer goods.

Human beings are portrayed as though they were free atoms going about their business in the ubiquitous environment of the "market". The exact relationship between the wealthy atoms and the poor or starving atoms is not explored, excepting Ivor Pearce who says: "to grant everyone the 'right' not to be poor is to deny to everyone the right to be rich."

This leads to the odd conclusion that, "...to abolish poverty is to abolish the need to labour which is, outside of the Garden of Eden to abolish wealth itself." (A back-handed way of confirming that labour creates all wealth.)

The book covers other subjects: the decay of morality, the pernicious role of left-wing intellectuals, the mentality and ambition of bureaucrats, the role of the political parties and so on.

It is a warning of the measures the Tories and their big business bosses have in store. But they can be stopped, if we ensure the election of a Labour government committed to decisive socialist measures to expose and undercut these grim "theories".



## BOB STOTHARD CONCLUDES HIS ACCOUNT OF THE MODERN LORRY-DRIVERS' JOB

The next morning I rise at 6.30 am, take a greasy breakfast and set away for Manchester. By 12.30 I have one drop left, a warehouse in the suburbs.

The gateman, often the foe of the wagon driver, won't let me in until the storemen resume work at 1.30pm. He won't even let me in to use the canteen for my dinner. I feel like sticking one on him but know it would be futile.

When I'm tipped I phone the gaffer, who tells me to phone round for a load back. I settle for a load of new pallets from a contact of my own—it's easy to load and

easy to tip.

When I get there, however, a queue of motors tells me I won't be home tonight—I wish they'd told me when I phoned up. I ring the gaffer again who tells me to tip the pallets in the morning and then load for the South-east straight away.

I sit and try to figure if I can stay at home tomorrow night.

A group of drivers stand

about listlessly moaning in a variety of accents: every minute of your day has to be accounted for by law; the environmentalists ("Brown bread and sandals brigade" as one wag calls them) want lorries off the road altogether without a thought for men's livelihoods or what will replace the lorry; the money; the bad digs; having to fiddle agency cards; car park fees and phone calls to muster the pennies you will eventually take home.

Then there's overloading (you're suspicious but there's no weighbridge about); the lunatic who could kill you without you being able to do anything about it when you're on the road or loading; load safety; EEC regulations; poor

maintenance—the list could go on and on.

The new EEC regulations imposing limits on drivers' earnings through driving hours, rest periods, mileage, and all the rest of it, were in many drivers' minds during the recent strike to win a decent basic wage. But there is little doubt that it will be the cowboys, no longer able to make a fast profit, who will suffer. We should see the demise of the cowboy drivers who threaten the public at large, their brother drivers and organised labour. This is especially true of the tachograph (see Alex Ingram's excellent article 'Militant' 433).

Perhaps then the transport industry will be exposed naked and in dire need of re-organising—under a socialist plan to protect jobs, the environment and the running of industry for need and not profit.

Never again need the old "tramp", despised by bosses and public alike, re-appear from the past to threaten the drivers' new-found strength.

But this needs the efforts of every driver to attend his union branch meetings (get them held on Sunday mornings if necessary to ensure everyone can attend) and Labour party meetings to elect officials and MPs who will fight every inch of the way and, most important of all, can be recalled if they do not!

Forward to the 35-hour week!



To serve two masters, "that is a recipe for economic and social disaster." That is the view of industrial relations held by Lord Justice Lawton, expressed while presiding over the case of National Graphical Association versus capitalist law. Presumably the power of the unions should be curtailed so that no worker is faced with this terrible dilemma, and only has to bow down to one authority, that of the bosses.

The NGA was 'sent down' to the tune of £80,000, and that was only in costs for daring to appeal against a previous High Court Order. All this brings back memories of the Heath days, the Industrial Relations Act and the sequestration of union funds.

### Using the loopholes Labour left

But under what law do these judges operate now. Unfortunately it is the very legislation introduced by Labour to replace the Tories' Act—the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act. Heath tried to constrain the unions in a legal straight jacket. A few hefty tugs by the workers and the strings binding them snapped. The TULRA was Parliamentary recognition of what the unions in action had already achieved. It returned to them the rights they had lost, and was intended to give them extra immunity.

That's where the judges step in. By taking advantage of the loopholes left open and by legal interpretation, Labour's intentions are being transformed into their opposite.

Just one phrase "in furtherance of a trade dispute", hides a multitude of dangers for the trade union movement. Under the TULRA workers are not covered for any action that is deemed not to be "in furtherance" of such a dispute. And it is the courts that can decide.

The NGA's 'crime' was



Ominous noises from the Bench

By  
Jeremy Birch

And "it would be contrary to principle that a union should seek to outflank ACAS... by industrial strength."

Workers on the shop-floor should be attentive to these ominous noises drifting down from the Bench. If this is the attitude of judges expressed publicly, and if these are the weighted interpretations they are able to put on the Labour government's legislation, how much licence would they be allowed by the Tories.

### 'Political judgements'

A special seminar for

employers was organised last week to discuss the very questions of strikes and picketing, with a guest speaker from United Biscuits and the barrister that advised the firm. The cost for the day incidentally was £75 per head. But John Miller (T & G W U National Chemicals Secretary) addressing the assembled directors and lawyers really laid into the openly "political judgements" being made in the courts against organised labour.

Not surprisingly the legal experts jumped to their own defence proclaiming the integrity and impartiality of the judges. Few workers will be convinced. How can they have any confidence in capitalist law or those that administer it? To defend their organisations and to use whatever action they think necessary to win a dispute trade unionists can only rely on their own strength. But at the same time they must pressurise the Labour leaders to strengthen and tighten up the legislation protecting union rights, and leave no room for any misinterpretations.

# ARE THE UNIONS ABOVE THE LAW?

to black all firms that advertised in the Nottingham 'Evening Post'. The publishers of that journal, T. Bailey Forman, must be the most anti-union in their profession. They have been involved in a long running battle with the NGA, and just for good measure recently sacked all their journalists who had been so 'disloyal' as to participate in the national strike for decent wages.

So NGA printers nationally refused to place the adverts of these 16 blacked companies in any paper. The courts ruled that as the NGA had no "trade dispute"

with the 16 it acted illegally. This judgement could lay any TU members taking sympathetic strike action open to legal proceedings.

### The threat to 'secondary pickets'

United Biscuits—whose chairman Sir Hector Laing is, significantly, an advisor to Mrs Thatcher—took out a similar successful injunction against a lorry drivers' picket. The High Court found that picketing a third party not directly involved in the "trade dispute" between the drivers and the haulage firms was unlawful. Apart from which it

could cause the whole biscuit empire to crumble.

Of course it was mere coincidence that what the judges rules against just happened to be the only effective way to conduct that strike. Judicial interpretations are threatening secondary picketing if not the right to withdraw labour itself.

The comments of their Lords of Appeal at the NGA hearing indicate that at least for printing workers where they think that right should be circumscribed. The NGA is a "very powerful Union" bemoaned Lord Denning, operating an effective closed shop.

"Interference with the freedom of the press is so contrary to the public interest that it has to be regarded as the employment of unlawful means" he went on.

Most workers would challenge his concept of a 'free press'. The same unions that have been taken through the courts have been pilloried by the monopoly press for their actions, and have no right of appeal against that.

Lord Denning does accept that printers can strike for more money, but even then because of the public (dis)service the papers provide it should be settled by arbitration.

## N. IRELAND - TRADE UNION ENQUIRY NEEDED

After the publication of the Bennet report, more and more evidence is accumulating of the extent of torture and brutality in prisons in Northern Ireland, particularly in the infamous Castlereagh.

Now the majority of Northern Ireland's police doctors are reportedly threatening to resign if the Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, Sir Kenneth Newman, does not publicly admit that brutality has occurred. Coupled with the support of the association representing prison doctors and of the solicitors involved in cases arising out of the troubles, it is a sign that all the counter-allegations of the police authorities and the dirty tricks can no longer hold back the truth about conditions and treatment in the

prisons.

The labour movement cannot afford to let mistreatment pass without action. The police and the army in Northern Ireland far from the gaze of most workers, have been refining the techniques of repression and torture available to the British ruling class. The press has rung with Tory denunciation of strikes and picketing, comparing these basic trade union rights to 'terrorism'.

### Responsibility for torture

There can be little doubt that at some future date, such so-called 'limited' necessary measures would also be considered by British capitalism against its main antagonists, the organised workers.



Who controls the RUC

Workers in Britain and Ireland must demand that the movement campaigns against all repression; for a full trade union enquiry into all torture allegations and the bringing

to book of all those responsible for torture. Roy Mason has indicated that he might not be retaining responsibility for Northern Ireland even if Labour win the election.

Regardless of this, however, the labour movement must know who is responsible for acts of killing and torture and get assurances that no future Labour Minister will allow

them to continue.

The return of a Tory government would mean that such powers of detention and torture would be at the discretion of a thoroughly anti-working class government. The threat to the labour movement is obvious. Workers in Britain and Northern Ireland must fight to keep the Tories out of office and ensure that the Labour government is committed to the ending of the Emergency Powers Act, Prevention of Terrorism Act and all the apparatus of repression in Northern Ireland.

By Roger Shrivess



# STUDENTS MUST VOTE LABOUR

A Tory government now under Mrs Thatcher would be infinitely worse than when they were last in power. Then as Minister for Education, she launched a series of attacks on working class education. In Higher education, these included proposals to slash teacher training, and attempts to shackle Student Unions, which were successfully fought off by NUS.

Now for St John Stevas (their likely Education Secretary) one of the "first priorities" would be to restore 'direct grant status', to those savagely deprived by Labour. The Conservative Research Centre's 'Politics Today' actually lambasted the government for putting off school meal rises. "Yet another example of short term expediency", they cursed. Last year's Scottish Tory conference went still further, declaring that children should be allowed to leave school at 15. To people like these, the education system is a luxury that can no longer be afforded.

NUS must call on students to vote Labour in this election,

By Mike Levene  
(Delegate,  
Lanchester Poly)

and work for the Labour Party. Only Labour can stand in the way of a Tory Britain. The ultra-left fringe groups of student politics are irrelevant in the class confrontation of this election. The 127 votes of 'Socialist Unity' at Edgehill shows that very clearly.

The fight for real socialist policies is being fought in the ranks of the Labour Party itself. This Labour government has capitulated to the pressures of big business. In the past few years, Labour Party Conference has passed resolutions opposing wage

restraint, calling for a £60 minimum wage and a shorter working week, for the nationalisation of the banks, opposition to the cuts in public expenditure, for a socialist campaign against racialism, and for the abolition of the House of Lords. Students should join the fight for these policies to be implemented.

The labour movement is the only force in this country capable of transforming society. To link the student movement to the labour movement, NUS must campaign for affiliation to the TUC and the Labour Party, so our voice can be heard in the ranks of the labour movement.

- ★ Vote Labour!
- ★ Keep the Tories out!
- ★ Join your college Labour Club! Join the Labour Party Young Socialists!
- ★ Labour to power on a socialist programme!

## UNEMPLOYED WORKERS MOVEMENT - SAME FIGHT TODAY

The 1914-18 war had ended. The promises that had been fed to the troops, and the workers who stayed behind to make the weapons, that this would be the war to end all wars, were turning sour.

After the heroes' welcome the soldiers received, they quickly found that there were few jobs to do. By 1921 1,831,000 were unemployed: officially, that is, for like today the official figures hid a great army of unemployed who were not registered.

Unemployment did not just mean a reduction in family income, it meant the most horrific grinding poverty. Benefit was set at 29/- for a man and 25/- for a woman with 3/- for each child, but to obtain this you had to comply with the most stringent conditions.

Benefit could be withdrawn at the slightest excuse. This was the time of the means test when a family had to sell everything bar a few essentials before they could get Parish relief. Even these pathetic levels were under constant attack from the then Tory government and later, to its undying shame, the 1929-31 Labour government.

For many this meant begging on the streets, but others were not prepared to tolerate this humiliation. They formed the Unemployed Workers' Movement.

Its main objectives were to campaign for an end to the Poor Laws, and on any other attacks on the unemployed. The great battle cry of the

movement was for work or full maintenance. Although the unemployed had little industrial muscle, they had numbers and they were prepared to use them.

Overtime was one of the problems, many workers working 90 hours a week while millions rotted on the dole. The NUWM not only demanded the introduction of the 35-hour week, but where they found factories working excessive overtime they would march down to the factory and hold meetings with the workers to explain their case.

Sometimes this would not only meet with opposition from the bosses but battles with the police, who, like today, were not afraid to use their batons on the unemployed.

They would seal the factories off, closing the switchboard and locking the factory gates, usually after discussions with the workers. This often resulted in more people being taken on. The NUWM were also involved in strikes lending their assistance where it was required.

The main activity the NUWM became famous for was the hunger marches. From Glasgow, Liverpool and many other industrial areas, including later the miners from the Welsh valleys, thousands marched on the capital to lobby ministers, who frequently would not even see them.

Instead they set the police on them, but despite the fact that governments ignored them and TUC leaders disowned them, hundreds of

thousands of workers supported them.

Each time the NUWM marched, the numbers taking part increased, until in 1931 when they went to lobby the government, over 150,000 people assembled in Hyde Park. The government had just announced savage reductions in benefit.

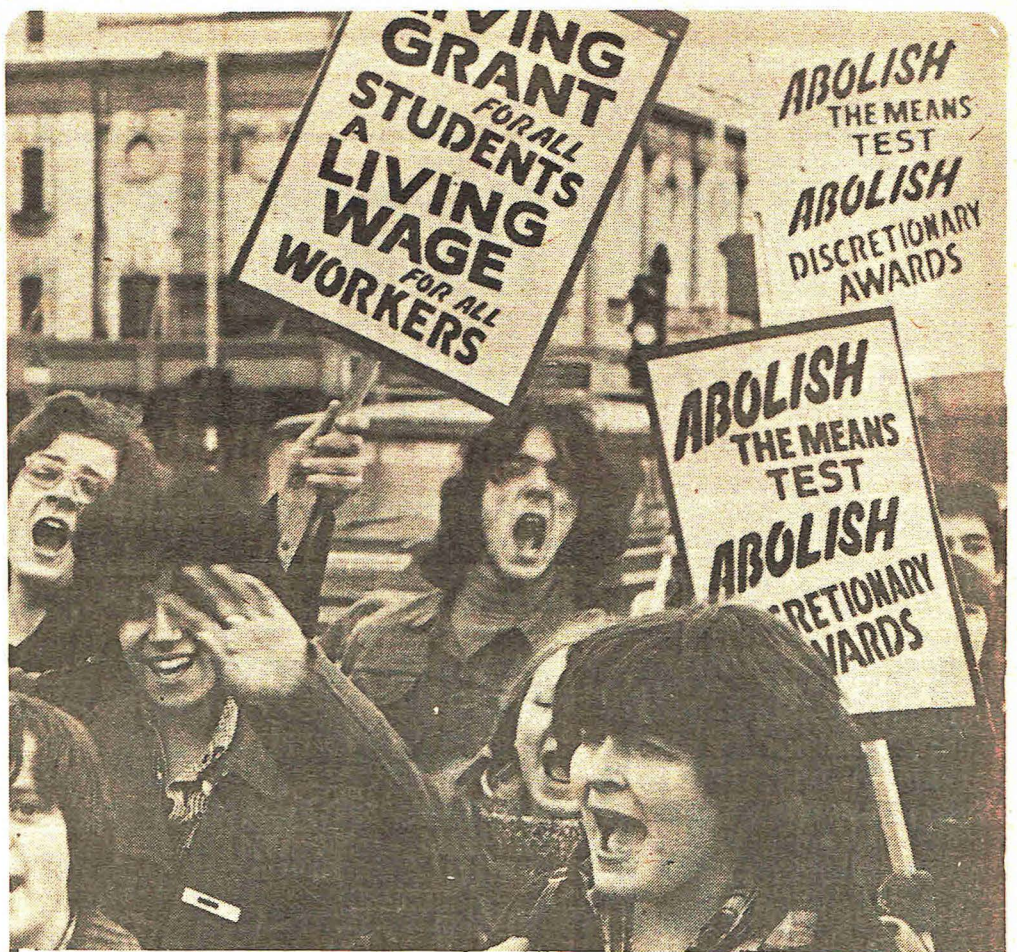
Under this great pressure the government relented a little and scaled down the reductions, but this still meant tremendous problems for the unemployed and their families.

The Second World War cut across the growth of the NUWM, but it leaves behind the memories of the great hunger marches and the bitter determination of the unemployed not to stand by idly while the bosses attacked what little means of sustenance they had.

Unfortunately, despite the fact that many of its leaders were great class fighters like Tom Mann and Wal Hannington, as a leadership they largely failed to go beyond day-to-day demands of the unemployed and link these to the need to change society.

Having mobilised great numbers of workers, they did not turn their energies to direct political action. If they had done so, the outcome would have been very different.

By  
Jeff Price



Manchester demo for a 'Living Grant'

Photo: John Smith (IFL)

## NUS NEEDS SOCIALIST POLICIES

NUS Conference meets after a year of 'lull' in student politics. The defeats suffered by students on a number of issues have seen the bulk of students turn away from political activity. But the problems of students still stare them straight in the face.

The most important point for delegates to consider at this Conference is the lack of any leadership in the past year from the NUS Executive. They have consistently refused to support colleges fighting on local issues, such as the cuts, quotas, nurseries etc. But also, the grants campaign has been poorly organised and led.

The NUS leadership have demanded a 26% increase in grants, although this would still leave many students on the poverty line. But they have consistently failed to explain how, in a time of economic crisis, this can be won. NUS should launch a grants campaign around the theme of opening education to the working class, highlighting the problems that the FE and Technical College students face.

This has to be linked to a socialist education programme, to completely transform the present education system, abolish the binary system and see a massive increase in education expenditure. But the lesson of the past few years of economic crisis is that every reform won by the working class is placed in danger when the bosses need to restore profits.

The major discussion at the Conference will be on the NUS Constitution. At present, NUS Conferences are a sham of democracy, with a minimum of political debate. On the specific proposals of the Constitutional Review Body, Conference should admit part-time students as full members of the union, and they should be fully represented at

NUS Conference.

Conference should also reject proposals for campus-wide ballots and Student Representative Councils in Student Unions. The Union General Meetings should make policy and elect NUS delegates.

But, NUS must consider how to ensure the maximum political debate at Conference. Proposals to make one Conference a 'business' Conference should be rejected. The Executive Report should be taken as a whole, in one or two sessions, with delegates having the automatic right to ask questions, abolishing the present cumbersome procedure. Also, speakers should be called from the floor of Conference. The present cumbersome procedure allows the ordinary delegate the minimum of real participation.

The NUS has been led by the 'Broad Left' for five years now. The recent changes proposed in this alliance—of including Liberals, Christians and other 'progressives'—while it breaks with the former monolith of the Broad Left, compounds the original mistake of these people in cobbling together an electoral alliance, and then deciding on a compromised political programme. There is a large amount of cynicism in the colleges towards the Broad Left, and this latest example of 'wheeler-dealing' will not help the fight for socialist policies in NUS.

Members of the National Organisation of Labour Students should be particularly concerned at the participation by the leadership of that organisation in this alliance—did Labour benefit from the Lib-Lab pact? Nevertheless, for elections at this Conference with NOLS refusing to campaign independently, 'Militant' supporters amongst the Labour students will vote for those Broad Left candidates from the workers' parties.

By Alan Watson

(NUS Polytechnic Committee  
and NOLS NC, personal capacity)

The NUS should fight for:

- ★ A grant of £1,800 per annum for all students!
- ★ A massive increase in education expenditure! An emergency building programme to end all slum colleges!
- ★ No rent increases in halls of residence or increases in canteen prices!
- ★ End educational apartheid—abolish the binary system and introduce a

comprehensive higher education system!

- ★ Education to be run by the working —as the only force in society that can break the grip of big business!
- ★ A socialist economic programme—to guarantee the resources for a decent education system open to the working class!

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# UNION RIGHTS THREATENED

All the basic trade union and democratic rights conquered by the British working class in more than 100 years of bitter struggle will be threatened if a Tory government is elected on 3rd May.

Thatcher demanded the abolition of the right to strike for certain key groups of workers in "essential" services, action against the closed shop, the organised expression of strong trade unionism—and action against picketing, a vital weapon for making any strike effective.

The Tory 'liberal' Prior tried in the past to calm the fears of trade union leaders. He also led the efforts to silence the anti-trade union ravings of his more impetuous friends on the Tory front bench.

But his real policies differ from Thatcher only in emphasis. In 1977 he told the Tory conference "We are against the closed shop, full stop".

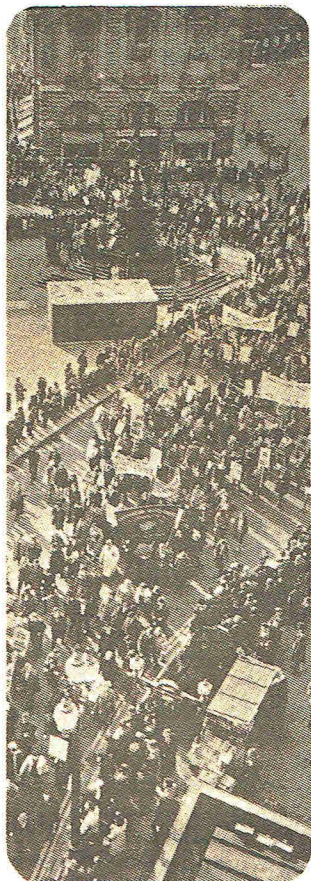
The vicious Tory mouth-piece of big business, the 'Economist', recently opposed the withdrawal of social security payments from strikers. They suggested instead that the payments should be made and then taken from union funds after the strike is over!

The Tory 'Financial Times has revealed that "the 'Conservatives are actively considering whether to try and amend the law which gives trade unions immunity from damages. They want to make unions liable for inducing breaches of contract by workers not directly involved in disputes."

In other words a Thatcher government would try to play the same dirty game as Heath with his Industrial Relations Act by seeking to hit the unions where it hurt most, in the pocket.

These attempts to curb picketing and sympathy strikes [the second most numerous group of strikes] if enshrined in law, would mean the intimidation of the courts, sentences, and massive fines for countless trade unionists.

Prior has warned that an incoming Tory government would bring in legislation



1971  
**WORKERS MARCH  
AGAINST TORIES**

**-THATCHER  
HAS LEARNED  
NOTHING**

for postal ballots in the trade unions, a move designed to give right-wing press magnates more direct influence over the outcome of trade union elections.

He also announced that the Tories will try and cut down on social security money paid to the families of strikers. Other Tory MPs, such as Michael Brotherton, call for a total withdrawal of these payments.

Back-bench Tory MPs are not always privy to the hypocritical manoeuvres

By  
**Brian Ingham**

of their leaders and thus at times blurt out the real feelings of the Tory Party.

For instance, Ronald Bell, a right-wing Tory MP, has declared that "Strike breaking must become the most honoured profession of all."

Nicholas Fairburn, Tory MP for Kinross and West Perthshire, complained "The pay strike is wrong... pay strikes are merely lawful robbery and pickets licenced or lawful robbers. They should be outlawed."

And ex-Tory minister, Geoffrey Rippon called for the next Tory government to "create a citizens volunteer reserve" to be used as a blackleg force against the trade union movement.

Some Tory leaders, such as Heath and Prior have tried to learn from the battering which the last Tory government received at the hands of the unions.

They say the next Tory government must at least begin to lean on the trade union leaders so as to hold back the trade union rank and file.

But the bosses have decided—and what they say goes in the Tory Party—that the only way to salvage the mess into which they have dragged British industry, is by a savage attack on living standards and jobs.

To do this they must 'confront' the power of the unions. The Tories have prepared for such a confrontation.

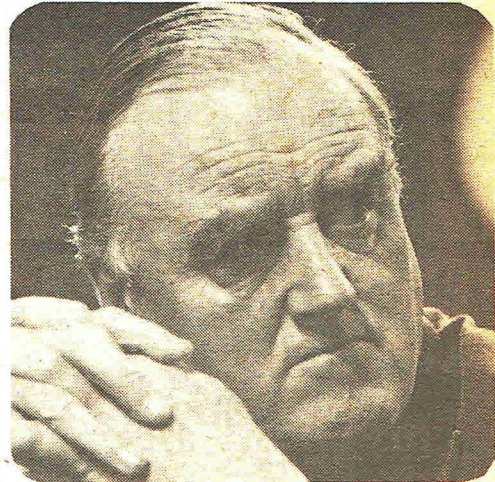
Lord Carrington headed a team which investigated the chances of the army being used on a large scale to break strikes. He reluctantly came to the conclusion that this was not possible, at this stage, firstly because there were not sufficient troops, secondly because this would "damage the fabric and practice of the country's politics". In other words all the lofty pretence of 'one nation' would be shattered: the state would be revealed as the open tool of the bosses.

Carrington feared the intensification of militancy this could bring and also the political conclusions it



**MARGARET THATCHER:** Tory leader since 1975. As Minister for Education in the Heath government who abolished free school milk for children over seven, she earned the title 'Thatcher the Milk Snatcher'.

In a poll of visitors at Madame Tussaud's she came third in the 'Hate and Fear' category behind Hitler and Amin. She pushed Dracula and Jack the Ripper into fourth and fifth places!



**WILLIAM WHITELOW:** Tory Deputy Leader. He is a big farmer in Cumberland and a landowner with a massive estate in Scotland. Is supposed to be a Tory 'dove' but recently declared that a Tory government would "confront" the unions.

# THE UGLY UNACCEPTED FACE OF TO



**MICHAEL HESELTINE:** Known as 'Tarzan' because of his flowing locks and threats against the working class. Chairman of Haymarket Press.



**LORD THORNEYCROFT:** Chairman of the Conservative Association. Also chairman of the big rubber and cable monopoly Pirelli, one of the four firms obliged to repay £9 million to the Post Office after admitting operating an illegal price fixing ring.

could produce among trade unionists;—for an end to capitalism and for the building of a socialist society.

The threat to the working class from a Tory government is most clearly illustrated by the 'secret' report of Tory MP Nicholas Ridley.

He wrote: "The eventual battle lines should be on ground chosen by the Tories, in a field they think could be won [railways, the civil service, or steel]. The truth is that even in these industries the Tories could be defeated.

Ridley revealed that the power of the trade unions is incompatible with a Tory government trying to undermine the conditions of the working class on behalf of the bosses. He

anticipated "a major challenge from a trade union either over a wage claim or over redundancies."

He thought this would come in the mines, and listed elaborate strike breaking precautions:

## KEEP THE TORIES OUT

"[a] build up maximum coal stocks, particularly at power stations; [b] make contingency plans to import coal; [c] encourage recruitment of non-union lorry drivers by haulage firms to help move coal where necessary; [d] introduce dual coal/oil firing in all power stations as

quickly as possible."

Ridley also comes out in favour of a squad of scabs that would be given police protection to cross picket lines!

But in spite of all their plans to destroy the accumulated power of the trade unions the Tory party would once again find that it is not possible to simply take away with an Act of Parliament what the working class has won in generations of struggle.

A full scale attack by the Tories will rouse the trade unions now 12 million strong as never before. Thatcher, like Heath before her will be sent packing with a bloody nose!

But the Tories must not be given the chance of unleashing such an attack.



# Housing, Health, Social Services - SPENDING WILL BE SLASHED

By  
Wayne Jones

The Tory council in Wandsworth have cut their grant for summer outings for kids from £1.13 per child to 7p. A 53% increase in prices has been put on meals on wheels.

This is nothing compared to the ferocious cuts that would be unleashed by the Tories against the working class if they are returned to office.

Tory councils up and down the country have slashed welfare and social services designed to help those most in need. In Birmingham 18 children's homes are to be closed in two years, and a total freeze on social services spending in 1979.

When the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea under Sir Malby Crofton, drew up a list of cuts for 1977-78 they included cutting bus permits for the blind [saving £1,300], subsidised holidays for the severely handicapped [£14,700], and council-installed television for the chronically sick [£4,000].

What callous disregard for human suffering! And these are the same people who rant and rave about the 'inhumanity' of the striking low paid local authority workers. What rank hypocrisy!

Both in words and deeds the anti-working class, reactionary nature of the Tories has been revealed.

The NHS would be dismantled. The whole principle of free treatment for the sick, introduced 30 years ago when the NHS first came into being and which was one of the greatest achievements of the labour movement would be abandoned.

'Hotel' charges for staying in hospital has been proposed. "There will be no more

Cuts totalling £4,000 million would be the order of the day if the Tories are returned. This would not include expenditure on defence and 'law and order' which would be increased

money for the NHS under a Conservative government", was the blunt message of Tory Social Services spokesman Patrick Jenkin.

What clearer indication of the Tories intention to sabotage the NHS can be given? Hospital closures, staff shortages and lengthening waiting lists will result. 600,000 are already waiting for treatment. 40,000 of them are urgent cases! People will die!

Prescription charges will be raised. The phasing out of private pay beds, initiated by the Labour government to prevent queue jumping by the well-off will be stopped.

Private pay beds will be

encouraged together with private medical schemes. If you're ill and you can't afford treatment, hard luck!

Council house spending will be drastically cut. Subsidies will be slashed. "Over the last few years there has been an explosion in public sector housing expenditure for which there is no conceivable social or demographic justification".

No justification?! The fact of one million families on waiting lists for a council home give the lie to this disgraceful statement, together with the millions of homeless, slum dwellers, and those living in overcrowded conditions.

If this were not enough, Tories intend to decrease council housing stock by selling them off. They will not be replaced.

Wandsworth Tories have left brand new council houses vacant whilst £208,000 has been spent on keeping vandals out. Even more was spent advertising them for sale! Capital spending on housing over the next four years has been cut by £23 million.

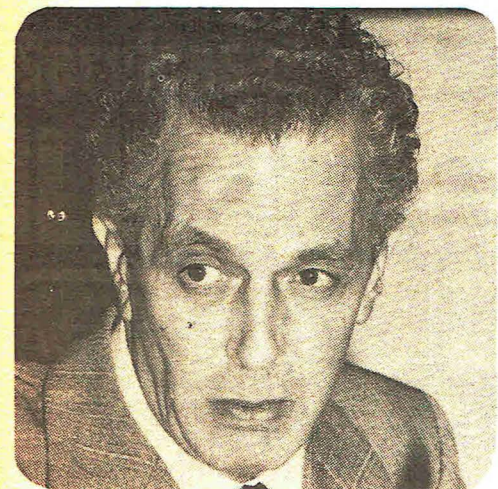
Education too will suffer, but not for the children of the rich. Their privileged schools and colleges will be maintained and subsidies to fee-paying and 'direct grant' schools will be increased. Such action will be one of the 'first priorities' of the next Conservative government, thus cutting the public money used to benefit all children.

School meals' charges will be increased even higher than already proposed under the Labour government.

Cuts totalling £4,000m would be the order of the day if the Tories are returned. This would not include expenditure on defence and 'law and order' which would be increased.

The scale and nature of these cuts and the examples given are a grim warning to the working class of the consequences of a Tory government.

The Tories must never have the opportunity to carry out such policies.



SIR KEITH JOSEPH: Former director of family firm Bovis Holdings, building contractors.

GEOFFREY HOWE: Director of seven companies including EMI, Alliance Assurance.

Workers in ailing firms and industries should expect little sympathy from him: "This government actively obstructs prosperity and the creation of jobs by endlessly intervening to 'save jobs'" he wrote [in Conservative Monthly News, October 1977].

In 1971 EMI gave £1,000 to Thatcher's "think tank" the Centre for Policy Studies.

EMI employs 51,000 people in 33 countries; in 1977 it paid its 33,986 employees in Britain an average wage of £56 a week. Its profits rose by £10 million from £64m to £74m.

# AND TABLE DRYISM



FRANCIS PYM: Ex-managing director of George Galloway and Webb.



LORD CARRINGTON: Tory leader in the House of Lords. Described by the 'Daily Mail' as "among the wealthiest of the Tory landed gentry". Director of Barclays Bank, Cadbury Schweppes and big monopoly Rio Tinto Zinc.



JAMES PRIOR: Farmer and land agent. Director of United Biscuits Holding. This company took out an injunction against a picket during the lorry drivers strike.

The trade union movement must ensure that the Tories suffer a humiliating defeat.

A Trade Union Campaign for a Labour Victory has been organised nationally. Committees of this campaign must be established in every factory and in every area. A massive drive should be launched throughout the trade unions to maximise the trade union vote for Labour and in order to keep the Tories out of office.

Canvassing teams should be mobilised from among trade union members and taken especially into the marginal seats. If such a campaign is waged, on a socialist programme, throughout the trade unions, then the defeat of the Tories is assured.



SMIRKED THATCHER WITH BOSSES BEHIND HER  
"I'LL RIP THE TEETH OUT OF THIS TIGER."  
BUT SAD TO RELATE  
OLD THATCHER GOT ATE -

- AND THE SMIRK  
WAS TRANSFERRED  
TO THE TIGER



Alan Hardman 18/2/79





# MIDDLE EAST TREATY - A Fragile Peace

17 months after Sadat's dramatic visit to Jerusalem, the Egyptian leader has at last signed a treaty with Begin, the Israeli Premier. But the fragile basis of the agreement has already been demonstrated by the opposition to it in Israel in the Arab world and in the occupied territories. Key questions have not been discussed in the negotiations because there could not be an agreement on them, owing to a conflict of interests.

In Lebanon Israeli-armed Christian militias maintain a proxy occupation of the border area and there is the question of the occupied Golan area on the Israeli-Syrian border. But the most important problem of all, the position of the Palestinian Arabs in the Gaza and the West Bank, has been left in abeyance.

By John Pickard

give aid to the North Yemeni government, but the Saudis have been so paralysed by their own impotence that their own policies have faced both directions at the same time. On the one hand, Khaled relies upon the comfort of the American military umbrella and clearly fears the spread of social movements, but on the other hand is afraid to ape the Shah's complete dependence on the US.

The Peace Agreement has put the Saudi regime in a position where it stands to lose face whether it supports the agreement or opposes it.

Sadat must also have contemplated the dangers to his own government by signing the peace accords, after the events in Iran. But on the other hand, the pressing economic crisis at home cannot be left to one side. Sadat has far more to risk, at least in the short term by not signing some kind of peace deal than by signing it.

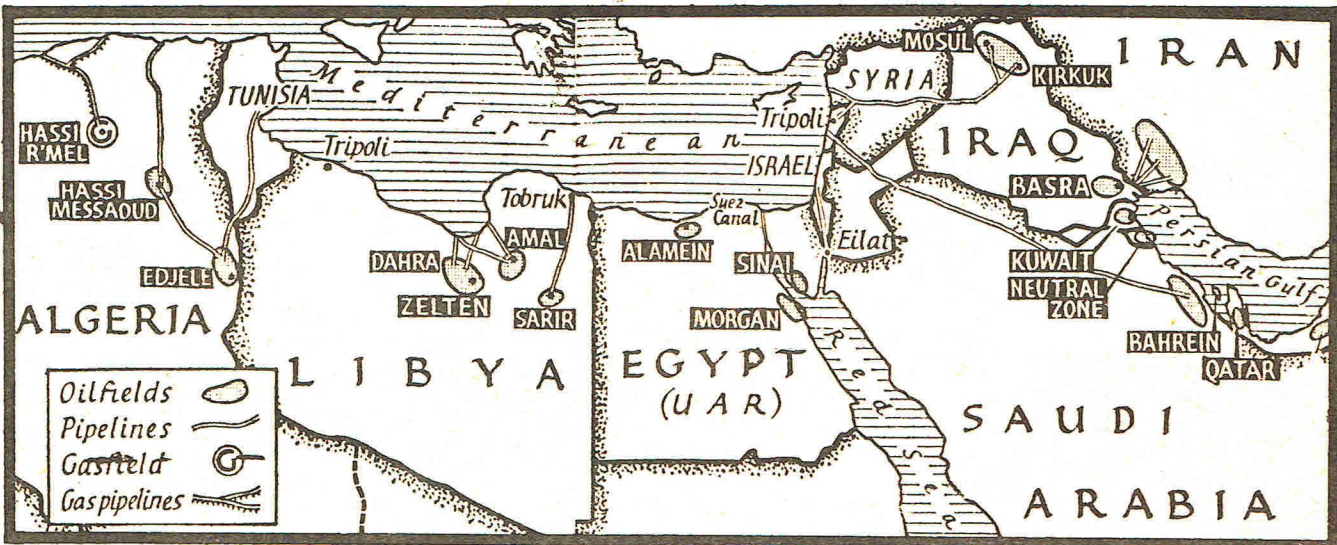
The issue has been left suspended in mid-air, open, as with all the previous agreements, to a variety of interpretations. Indeed only days after the completion of the latest round of negotiations, the Egyptian and Israeli governments were at loggerheads over the interpretation of the 'autonomy' clauses.

The new agreement can in no way be an 'overall peace' treaty. It is no more than a temporary measure, promoted by American imperialism especially, to reduce the chances of an Arab-Israeli war by trying to eliminate from the conflict the biggest and strongest of the Arab states. The momentum for the negotiations has been developed because of the dire need for stability to protect Western oil and other strategic interests.

Hanging over all the negotiations like a black cloud has been the spectre of the Iranian revolution. All over the world, but in the Middle East particularly, the ruling classes have suffered an enormous blow to their morale and confidence as a result of the Iranian upheavals.

Even in semi-feudal states like Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, there have been calls for the resurrection of long-dead 'Assemblies', in the hope that these will act as safety valves to head off any incipient social unrest. The recent border war between the two Yemeni states (one, South Yemen, based upon a state-owned economy and Russian international patronage) must have sent new panic waves through the palaces of the oil-rich sheiks.

The American and Egyptian governments rushed to



Begin has already given a commitment to right-wing Israeli Knesset members that his interpretation of the deal means that there will never be an independent Palestinian state. He has tried to distinguish between autonomy for the Arab 'population' and autonomy for the 'territory'—the first being permissible, the second not.

This interpretation is a continuation of the Camp David accords of last September which referred to the Israeli state's 'security' needs as being paramount. In other words the 'autonomy' that Begin proposes means little or no change in the political and social freedoms for West Bank Arabs. They will continue to live in a police-state subject to land expropriations and military harassment.

More than a quarter of the total area of the West Bank has already been confiscated by the Israeli authorities, most of it being among the best farming land. The Israeli settlements, numbering over 70 on the West Bank hold more than 90,000 settlers, about 13 per cent of the total West Bank population.

The Israeli authorities subsidise the settlers to develop schools, transport, health and

## PALESTINIANS IGNORED - SOCIAL CONFLICT GROWS

other services while the same authorities run down the services provided for the mass of the Arab population. Over 60,000 West Bank Arabs have been forced to seek employment in Israel itself and the social conditions forced a further 22,000 to cross into Jordan (the East Bank) last year alone.

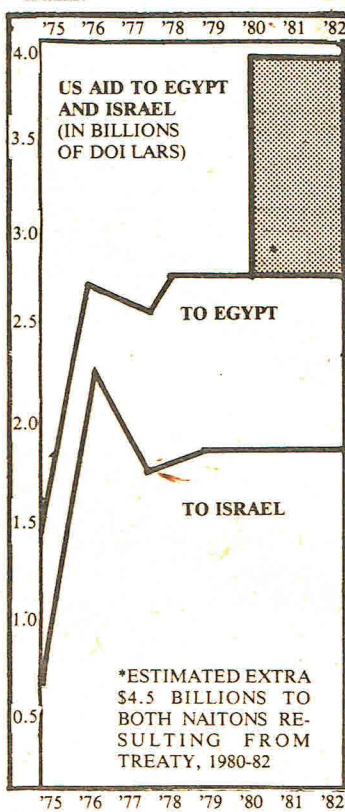
The announcement of the peace agreement brought immediate protests from the West Bank Arabs. At the same time an Israeli court published a judgement in effect legalising the seizure of Arab property for use by Jewish civilian settlements, further fuelling the anger of the Arabs.

The whole of the West Bank was rocked after the agreement with riots, business strikes and school strikes. Road blocks were set up and demonstrators stoned Israeli military vehicles. The Israeli military authorities replied with their customary brutality and in the end at least two Arabs were shot dead and many more were arrested or hospitalised.

Taking Israel and the occupied areas together, the total Arab population now numbers about 50 per cent of the total, and the proportion is growing. There is no possibility that the Israeli ruling class can continue to govern this half of 'its' population except by an increasing use of the most bloody and brutal methods.

The Egyptian-Israeli agreement will in the short term stabilise their own government relations and so lessen the chances of an immediate Arab-Israeli war, but the effect of the 'peace' agree-

ment in the Israeli-occupied areas will be to heighten the tensions and the conflicts that are already present. There will literally be explosive consequences for the West Bank.



in the Israeli Knesset are a small reflection of the gulf that will open up between the classes in Israel, especially in the context of the growing economic crisis and the effect of that on living standards.

The scale of the opposition that Begin has encountered to the peace treaty is an indication of the dilemma that faces Israeli capitalism. They are in great difficulties whether a peace treaty is signed or not, they are reaping the results of their own foundation and history. But given the balance of the various factors, especially in the light of American pressure, their dependence on Arab oil, the threat of social revolution and so on, Begin and Israeli capitalism have been forced to face the lesser risk—in the short term—of a treaty.

After the rhetoric about the Palestinian cause, Sadat will only give hypocritical support to the aspirations of the Palestinian on the West Bank, for the right to self-determination. The Saudis also, despite their threats to cut off aid to Egypt, will be forced to recognise the logic of their own weak position—social stability means at least as much to King Khaled as it does to Sadat—and will probably continue to prop up the Egyptian economy, at least on the quiet.

At the time of Sadat's visit to Jerusalem in 1977, the press was absolutely blind with euphoria. Today there is a remarkable difference in the tone of the comments about the peace deal—"a small and temporary step, yes, perhaps"...but the ruling circles of the capitalist classes of the West are also worried about the longer-term.

There is an air of foreboding about the future. The Financial Times commented: "in the last analysis (is) the danger that the Israeli-Egyptian agreement may provoke instability where it was meant to bring peace" and elsewhere its Middle East editor commented that Carter "must be wondering if the agreement has the substance of gold or of a base and brittle metal".

The regimes in the Middle East based upon capitalism



Palestinian prisoners in courtyard of West Bank prison



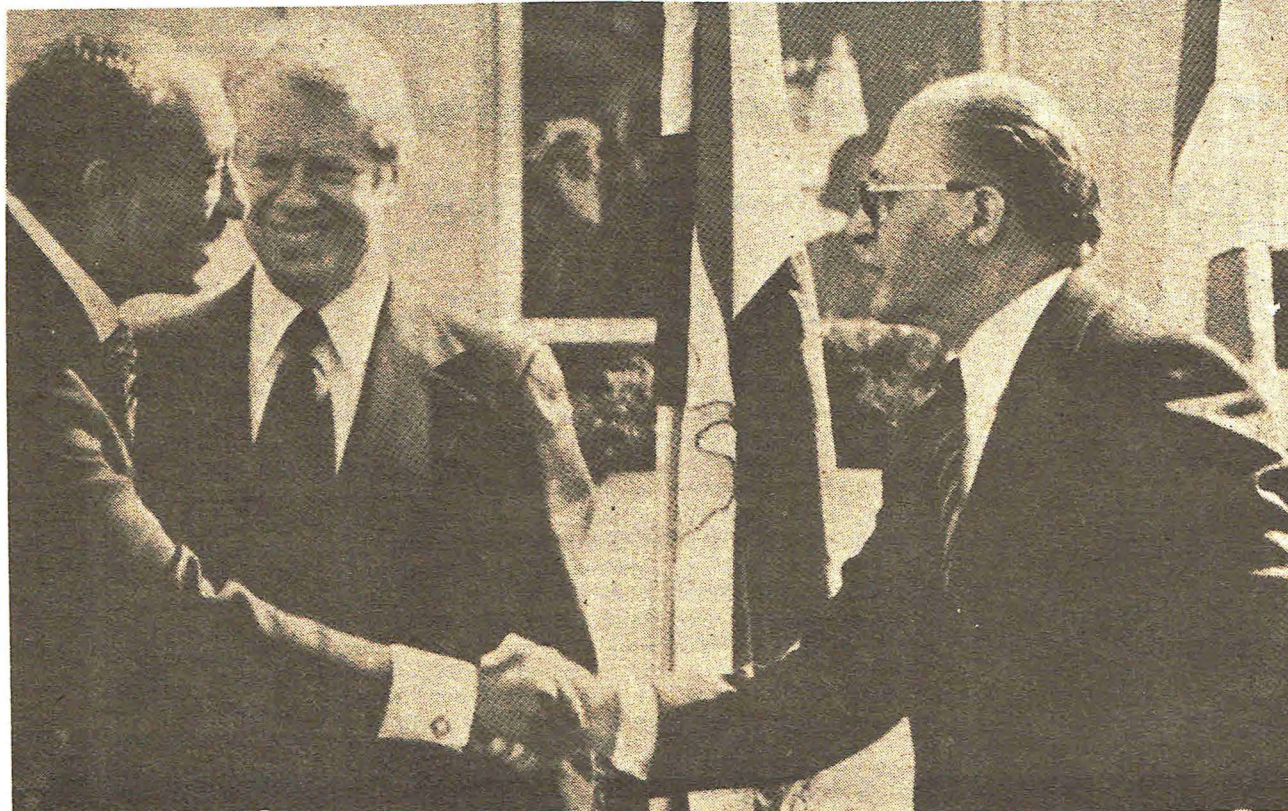
# PAKISTAN/IRAN

and landlordism are the root cause of social and national antagonisms. Agreements that preserve the reactionary basis of these states in effect maintain and preserve the causes of further wars and social upheavals. Peace agreements with "the substance of gold" are possible, but only on the basis of socialist change and socialist leadership in the Middle East and elsewhere.

"Peace" between Israel and Egypt, while the Israeli ruling class occupies the Gaza Strip and the West Bank solves nothing. At the same time the social contradictions in Egypt will grow. The landlord-capitalist ruling class in Egypt will get the lion's share of any new wealth created by lessening the burden of arms expenditure.

In Israel the lessening of the "threat" from without, as has happened on every occasion, has seen an explosion of strikes.

And here is the essence of the solution. The imperialists, especially American Imperialism are interested in keeping the region divided and powerless. They are interested, as in Iran, in having the



Under the shaky embrace of American imperialism

oil areas controlled by reactionary semi-feudal absolutist dictatorships which will be subservient to them.

But, as in Iran, the social contradictions in Egypt, in Israel, and the other Arab states are growing.

Only a social revolution in Egypt and Israel and the other Arab states can solve the problem of peace and of

the Palestinians. One of the reasons why the Israeli ruling class is holding on to the occupied areas is that on a

capitalist basis even if they gained independence it would not be viable. In addition it would act as a magnet to the suppressed Arab population who are discriminated against and are second class citizens of Israel.

The only solution which would bring prosperity and end the contradictions in the Middle East would be the overthrow of landlordism and capitalism in the Arab states and capitalism in Israel. This could lead to a democratic socialist federation of the Middle East with full autonomy for Israel and the right to return to their countries of origin of the Palestinians and all other peoples of the Middle East.

## MILITANT INTERNATIONAL REVIEW

Articles on:  
• Middle East  
• Iran  
• Britain

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## PAKISTAN:

# UNREST GROWS AFTER BHUTTO'S DEATH

The killing of former President Bhutto has provoked massive uproar in Pakistan. The barbaric manner of his death and his secret burial has added to the people's horrified disgust towards the military regime.

Immediately the news of Bhutto's death was announced, demonstrations occurred throughout Pakistan. Barricades were temporarily erected in Rawalpindi, 30,000 people assembled in protest in Lakarna [Bhutto's constituency] and street battles broke out in Lahore and Karachi.

Even the pro-Zia party, the Islamic Pakistan National Alliance disassociated itself from the killings of Bhutto and the four others sentenced to death with him.

Zia and the military regime had felt that either way they had difficulties over Bhutto. If he was pardoned he might in future stir up unrest, return to power and threaten them. If executed there might be demonstrations. In the end they characteristically chose the path of repression.

Internationally the killing was condemned by Western and Soviet regimes. These condemnations had nothing to do with the personality of Bhutto. Western imperialism had backed Zia's overthrow of Bhutto in 1977. Now they were concerned about the political consequences for Pakistan if he was killed.

They were especially worried about the danger of the regional dismemberment of Pakistan.

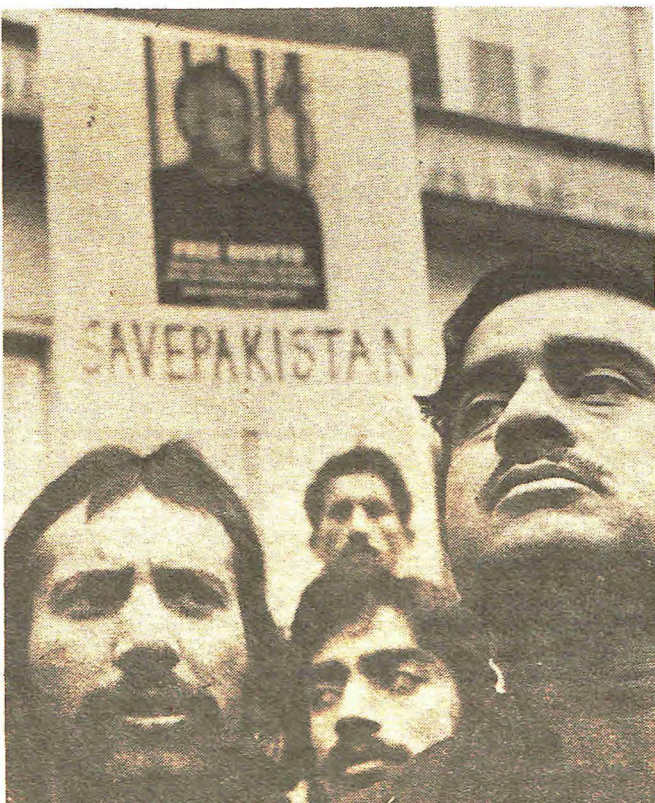
Their worries were crystallised by the claim of some of last week's demonstrators that: "Now this country will be like Iran."

Bhutto himself had dema-

popularity.

And that could herald a new period of unrest in the country. Neither the military regimes or its backers have anything to offer the people of Pakistan except more repression.

By Iqbal



Demonstration in London when Appeal Court voted 4-3 for death sentence

Photo: MILITANT

gogically attacked international and Pakistani capitalism. If the reality was different from the rhetoric, his capitalist Peoples Party nevertheless attracted mass support from Pakistan's workers and peasants.

There is little doubt that if free elections are held in November this year the Peoples Party would sweep into power. Zia's sole achievement has been to restore Bhutto's

Yet the lessons of Bhutto's rule must be realised. Unless the capitalist and landlord class are expropriated, they will continue to rule, by military force if necessary. It is vital that if Pakistan is not repeat the tragic cycle of civilian then military rule, that an independent workers' party is built to fight for a socialist programme to end the misery facing Pakistan's workers and peasants.



Zia

Bhutto

## IRAN: REVOLT OF THE NATIONALITIES

The overwhelming vote for the creation of an Islamic Republic in Iran in the recent referendum has not been able to cover the enormous problems facing the country. As explained in last week's Militant the Islamic Republic means different things to the different classes in Iran. The events of the past few weeks have firmly shown that the Iranian masses are determined to continue their struggle for a fundamental change in their conditions.

The fighting in Kurdistan and Turkeman has shown both the determination of the national minorities to end their oppression and the resistance of both Bazargan and Khomeini to the democratic demands of these peoples.

The battles in Gonbad in Turkeman were a result of the central governments attempt to prevent the Turkomans arming themselves, a refusal to answer the Turkomans' demands and instead concentrated real power in the area in the Khomeini's local Revolutionary Islamic Committee made up of Farsi [Persian] speakers.

The main Turkoman demands are for autonomy and the return of their lands seized by the Shah in 1963 and distributed amongst the Royal Family, generals and police chiefs. Already huge areas of Government owned grazing land have been seized by the Turkomans.

The actual fighting itself was sparked off by the killing of a street trader after an argument by Khomeini's militia. Claim-

ing that the Turkomans were either former secret policemen or "communists" the Government and Khomeini sent a force of militiamen backed up by jets and a helicopter gunship to suppress the movement.

But while this force was able to control the town, the government was forced to grant the Turkomans the same concessions recently given to the Kurds—the right to teach and broadcast in their language.

Although the fighting may have stopped for the present, the fundamental problems still remain. The social crisis continues and the social, economic and political demands of the peoples, especially the minorities, have not been met. The particularly harsh opposition of Khomeini and his militia, to the Turkomans shows that an Iran under their control would not be able to solve the national question. On the contrary their rule could lead to the intensification of the national struggles in Iran.

Only the formation of an independent workers party, fighting for the interests of the minorities and their right to self-determination alongside the demands of the working class as a whole, can unite the people of Iran against their real oppressors, Iranian and world capitalism, and begin to create a socialist Iran.

By our correspondent



LETTERS TO: The Editor, Militant, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

## LETTERS

CONSTITUTIONAL TRICKS  
WON'T STOP NATIONALISTS

Dear Comrade

Chris Leeds ('Militant' 23 March) should follow less blindly.

Eric Heffer and Neil Kinnock may not be spokesmen for big business, but they are not infallible either. Their argument that nationalism is irrelevant and socialism the only answer, is abstract.

By supporting this attempt to use a constitutional trick (the 40% rule) against the nationalists, Labour MPs have devised a rod for their own backs. In the future the nationalists will make hay, arguing that they were tricked if the Scotland Act fails in the House of Commons.

These MPs have given hostages to fortune, hiding behind the moth-eaten skirts of the British constitution, (a rather unpleasant place for socialists to put themselves). What if the Tories one day

decide no government with less than 40% of the electorate behind it can legislate radical (socialist) measures?

There was an element of internationalism in the Welsh vote. The vote was made more emphatic because the 'Yes' campaigners included the discredited Labour right wing, while the left—which has a cleaner banner—called for a 'No' vote. The biggest 'No' vote was in industrial Gwent.

Obviously there is a majority against in Wales and the vote must stand.

But in Scotland the workers quite clearly voted 'Yes', and what is more they hold the majority: Comrade Leeds tries to put down a classless smokescreen by referring to the Scottish 'people', but he cannot escape the facts.

It is only possible to make sense of this issue from a class and not a constitutional

standpoint. Nationalism could be the rock on which a revolutionary socialist movement founders. The question is how to pre-empt it?

Hair-splitting distinctions between referenda and elections will not undercut the nationalists, but an honest socialist alternative will. The less class-conscious workers in Scotland will not distinguish between the Tories, Labour or (regrettably) Chris Leeds: all they will see is a conspiracy to cheat them by changing the rules.

Far better to explain how the Assembly can be used to build a socialist labour movement—the only weapon that can destroy the economic conditions that allowed nationalism's rebirth.

Fraternally  
Martin Upham  
Hertford & Stevenage CLPONE OF THE  
LUCKY ONES?

Dear Comrades

After being unemployed for several months, I was sent to work as a Post Office assistant in a sub-Post Office.

I was shown what to do and on the third day my boss went shopping, leaving me in full control. Having the responsibility of a job like this and working from 9 am till 5.30 pm [often not getting away at that time], five days a week, and from 9 am till 12.30 pm on Saturdays, you would expect a good wage.

My wage is £18.84 per week. But then I am one of the lucky ones; I got a job!

Yours fraternally  
Winnie Venton  
Maguiresbridge  
Northern Ireland

## Upstairs, downstairs

Dear Comrades

A disgusting thing happened recently in a local government department which will, for good reasons, remain anonymous. A so-called 'junior' member of staff had been going through an extremely rough patch due to various domestic problems and consequently, had been late by about ten minutes every morning for a week.

Then the unfortunate 'junior' was unavoidably late back from lunch by about half an hour; when he returned to his office, fully prepared to explain his reasons for being late, his boss was waiting angrily and impatiently. The poor 'junior' tried to explain but the situation ended with him being given an official warning and quite a bit of

unnecessary embarrassment for the whole office.

The strange thing is, the boss concerned is consistently late in the mornings by about half an hour at least, and frequently returns from lunch smelling suspiciously of whisky. He obviously thinks that his position allows him certain privileges over the inferior clerks.

Strangest of all, the 'boss' and the 'junior' belong to the same union! This clearly demonstrates why workers should be fighting for a socialist alternative to get rid once and for all, of the layers of bureaucracy of decaying capitalism.

Yours fraternally  
Judith Collishaw  
Heanor South East Labour PartyDon't  
fall  
foul of  
the  
iron  
maiden

Dear Comrades

In the course of my work I happened to be [temporarily] in a place reserved for those members of our society who have fallen foul of the law of the land and are detained therein for varying lengths of time.

It happened to be the day after the Labour government lost the vote of confidence in the Commons and a group of the custodians of this place of detention were discussing the possible outcome of the general election. To a man they were frightened of the prospect of Thatcher!

Prison officers are not normally associated with left-wing political views or mind-boggling concepts of freedom, but clearly the threat of a Tory government, with this Boadicea of the class war leading the charge will colour many voters' attitudes on polling day.

We must campaign for a Labour government on a bold socialist platform based on the ideas put forward by 'Militant'. A right-wing Tory government is too horrible to contemplate and a 'dangerous left-wing extremist-cum-union-activist' like myself could find myself discussing politics with prison warders as a 'guest of the state'!

Yours fraternally  
A T&GWU member [Durham]

## Union support grows

Dear Comrades

Please find enclosed a cheque for £11.60 for the 'Militant' Fighting Fund. The money was raised at Leicester's first ever Industrial Forum, where Bill Mullins spoke on 'Management Techniques'. The meeting was a huge success and the trade

unionists present expressed a thirst for more meetings of this kind. The meeting showed clearly the growing support for the ideas of 'Militant' in the trade union movement in Leicester.

Yours fraternally  
Heather RawlingsWrite to  
'Militant'  
Send your views  
and comments on  
national and local  
events—as briefly  
as possible please  
—to the address  
aboveBIRDS OF A  
FEATHER

Dear Comrades

At a national level, the non-workers parties have recently ganged together to bring down the Labour government and force a general election.

This has brought out into the open more sharply the perspective of capitalists versus workers, represented by their various parties.

In Bridlington, a decision by the local Conservative Party to reverse their previous policy of not standing official Conservative Party candidates against 'approved independents' and to stand Conservative Party candidates for each available seat in the forthcoming District Elections, has resulted in the so-called 'Independents'—some having stood on that ticket for 20 years or more—agreeing to abide by the Tory whip and stand as official Conservative Party candidates.

In one case, all three 'Independent' councillors in one ward are now standing as official Conservative candidates. Indeed, only one 'Independent' has not agreed to heed the Tory whip, and even he has decided not to seek re-election rather than fight three Tories in his ward.

Feeling the same wind of change, the one Liberal councillor in Bridlington is now also standing as official Conservative Party candidate.

Thus it is dramatically revealed what 'Independent' and 'Liberal' really means—**Tory in disguise.**

You can't fool all of the people all of the time.

Fraternally  
Dave Brown  
District election agent North Wolds  
Labour Party

## Students in the real world

Dear Comrades

I would like to reply to Felicity Dowling's letter ('Militant' 30 March) 'Should we stop student casuals?'

I am a university student and I am working over the Easter vacation.

At first sight, it seems quite unfair that while the number of unemployed workers grows, we (students) take jobs they badly need. However, I'm not sure we can blame students for unemployment.

The root of the problem, as 'Militant' often argues, lies in

the crisis capitalism is facing. Still, as things now stand, it may be true that students take jobs from workers. But I see another side to the problem. Recently I told a friend of mine that I was receiving £35 for a 40-hour week in the job I've taken for the vacation. She said that for that money she wouldn't even bother.

The reason why I tell this is because it reflects a general attitude among students: they tend to forget that many workers receive that sort of

money and with it they have to support a family!

Many students look at workers' problems as something that happens 'out there in the real world'. Maybe if more students had first-hand experience of what most workers have to go through (low pay, abuses by management, etc.) this attitude might change.

Yours fraternally  
Andrés Bonfiglioli  
Sussex University

## NOLS leaders double-talk

Dear Comrades

I have had to wait until now before writing about the National Organisation of Labour Students' 1978 conference because, quite frankly, I was so disgusted by it that all I wanted to do was to erase it from my memory.

However I recently read a report of the conference in 'Labour Student'. When I first read the report I concluded that I had been to a different place. Because I never witnessed "lengthy debates" on conference documents.

The truth of the matter was that debates were short, unsatisfactory and in some

instances stage-managed, with 'Clause 4' supporters being called in preference to other delegates. Conference documents, in many cases, were not available until immediately before the debate, which left delegates no time to read them.

But apart from all the organisational shortcomings, the worst aspect of the conference was 'Clause 4' opposition to allowing working class part-time students to join NOLS.

They opposed this idea on two grounds; that part-time students were 'socially and culturally different' from them (too true), and secondly

that working class students, like working class youth in the LPYS, would support the 'Militant'. Therefore they defeated the resolution.

The report mentioned nothing of this. In fact in another piece of double-talk they said "Socialists must be working to break down elitist concepts".

Yes comrades. That's why we support the ideas of Marxism and the 'Militant'.

Yours fraternally  
Jeff Porter  
POEU member and ex-secretary Ruskin College LC



# YOU NEED THE MILITANT WE NEED YOUR CASH!

The total of donations and firm promises for the first quarter of "Militant's" 1979 Fighting Fund showed excellent attempts to get back on target—£2,805 in one week!

We have space to give only the percentage of the first quarter's target reached by every area and very brief 'credits' for just some of the contributions. But we would like to thank everyone who donated anything this week—from the readers who generously gave £100s to the many hundreds who gave the £s and pences.

Look at the chart and reports and see what needs to be done in your area. Look also at this letter (not a bad example to follow!):

**Dear Comrades:** Find enclosed £31 from supporters in Eastbourne. Sorry for the slow start this year, but this goes some of the way towards making up for lost ground.

Plans are well in hand for other fund-raising events to ensure we meet our target for the year. This includes a jumble sale in the best hall in town. With a bit of organisation this could raise up to £100. [One in Brighton recently raised £77—CD]

The £31 was raised by:  
Sponsored walk £28.  
"Lifts" £2.

A donation by Matthew Pooley, aged 6: £1.

We are hoping for some more donations at the discussion group this Thursday.

If, as it unfortunately seems at the moment, the YS conference will be cancelled or postponed, you can also count on money which otherwise would have gone on transport and accommodation.

Yours fraternally, Bob Campbell [Eastbourne LPYS]

If Major General Wyld-bore Smith is on the warpath for cash to fight the terrible threat of Labour's policies, (see pages 2-3), let's have the cash to show him and his 'pack' what a real socialist government would mean!

This week's "score":

**Eastern:** 69%. F Simmons £4, D Woods £1.40, and K Jones £1 (all Harlow), P S Lorrimer (Southend LPYS) £30, P Brown (CPSA) £1, MRM Basildon nearly £15, Norwich supporters £6.22, sponsored walk (Brentwood) £8.20, C Bennett (March) £10, C Butcher (Cambridge) £1, jumble sale (Peterborough) £28.15.

**Hants:** 58%. £61.91 "on its way" including curry evenings £20 and Grand National win £10.

**Humber-side:** 60%. Hull—K Egan (GMWU) £1, A Plater £1, B & D Fleetwood £4. Grimsby—D Withie (AUEW) £3, N Hammond £3, R Laggart £1. Scunthorpe—C Todd £2.

**North London:** 56%. Anon £100, P Fagan (Hayes LP) £2, L Gauntlet (Ruislip LPYS) £1, Barking GMC £4.38, R Gill (Ford, Langley) £1, L McConney (Northolt) £1, G Darvell (Leyton) £5, G McDonald (Enfield) £15, Uxbridge OAP S Maclean 50p, P Kordun (Uxbridge LP) £1.

**South London:** 92%. S Clare (Wimbledon) £2.10, re "sus" citation after demo in Brixton, £18.87, F & B Kidd (GMWU) £4, J Short (GMWU) £5, D Ayres (Norwood CLP) £2, promises £30.

**Manchester and District:** 62%. Preston readers £12 and just £1 from Manchester!

**Merseyside:** 56%. Total of £45.68 received.

**Midlands East:** 130%. Leicester—Industrial forum £11.60 (see letters page) plus further £10, P Matts £1, F

## Build Militant

Area	Target 52 wks	Target 13 wks	Proportion of target received	Received
Eastern	4,700	1,175		807
Hants & IOW	3,100	775		440
Humber-side	2,000	500		302
London North	9,500	2,375		1,320
London South	3,900	975		895
Manchester & Dist.	4,500	1,125		694
Merseyside	5,000	1,250		704
Midlands East	3,300	825		1,074
Midlands West	9,000	2,250		1,575
Northern	5,500	1,375		853
Scotland East	2,900	725		374
Scotland West	4,500	1,125		584
South East	4,500	1,125		985
South West	3,100	775		711
Wales East	2,600	650		543
Wales West	3,400	850		504
Yorkshire	6,800	1,700		1,061
Others	6,700	1,675		377
<b>Total</b>	<b>85,000</b>	<b>21,250</b>		<b>13,803</b>

Progress towards year's target Towards April 7th target

**TARGET FOR THE YEAR £85,000 - TARGET FOR APRIL 7th £21,250.**

Brown and P Tickle £2 and £1. Nottingham—R Russell (USDAW) £2, C Peat (LPYS) 35p, J Budgen (Notts ULC) £13, Mr and Mrs Sankey £1.62, B Delaney £5. Mans-

burgh supporters £21.50, including B Murray £1, J Kinninmouth £5. Dundee: A Laird £1, F Christie £1; £48 "on its way", and another £70 "conference expenses". Stirling 'promise' £18.

**Northern:** 62%. Cumbria

West Scotland: 52%. Glasgow £175.80, including T Cardin £1, J McDonald (sec. TGWU GDC Labourers' branch) £4, plus the Paisley DNS appeal.

**South East:** 88%. Eastbourne: B Campbell (not going to YS conference) £10, and promises of £10. Discussion group, Slough—£2.01, M Middleton (High Wycombe LPYS) £1; Thanet: J and R North's social £14. Gillingham: T and J Baker £5. Brighton: £70 on its way, including £30 from a social, J Grant £20.

**South West:** 92%. £20 T King (Redruth) £2, D Moss (Brixham), £3.25 R Worth (Newton Abbot), £2 K Besant (Cheltenham LPYS), Bristol supporters £137.20

and £30 promised.

**Wales East:** 84%. MDG Cardiff £11 net, on its way Rhymer Valley £112 (including 1 x £100) and Cardiff £118.

**Wales West:** 60%. N Griffiths (Bridgend) £5, Mr Nigel (Bridgend) £1, and £173.90 "on its way".

**Yorkshire:** 61%. Rotherham—LPYS raffle £5.50, MDG £9.50. On its way: MDG Bradford £3.50, Huddersfield readers £12.

**Others:** 23%. J Dirs (Switzerland) £11.30.

At a time like this, you need the 'Militant' more than ever and the 'Militant' needs your cash!

Send whatever you can to: 'Militant' Fighting Fund, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN, as soon as you can!

**Clare Doyle**

**THIS WEEK: £2,805**

field—readers £2.83. N Derbyshire—readers £4.75. Promises of £22.32.

**Midlands West:** 70%. Birmingham—"house warming" £37.50, bingo tickets £5 and £14 "on its way". Wolves—"Tipton Holiday Camp" collection £4.50. Telford—J Bell £6. Coventry—supporters at Rolls Royce Parkside £5.20.

supporters £2, Tyneside 'furniture removals' £4, Hartlepool YS disco £10, Grand National £10, shop steward's commission £15. Sunderland: R Stothard (GMWU) £5, N Lafite (unemployed) £2, Chester-Le-Street YS raffle £4.62, J Dent (CPSA) £2, social £7.50.

**East Scotland:** 52%. Edin-

## ads

**RATES**  
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SEMI-DISPLAY: £2 per 2

**BIRMINGHAM Militant Public Meeting:** 'The Tory Threat—Labour's Socialist Answer'. Speakers: Bill Mullins (Senior Steward, T&GWU, Rover, Solihull) and John Booth (Senior Steward, T&GWU, Bilston Steelworks). Sunday April 29th, 7.30 pm, The Grapes, Hill Street (back of New St Station), Birmingham

**LEICESTER 'Militant' Election Meeting:** 'Keep the Tories Out—Labour Must Win'. Sunday April 22nd, AUEW Hall, Vaughan Way, Leicester.  
**May Day meeting:** Monday 7th May, Secular Hall, Humberstone Gate, Leicester. Speakers to be announced.

**ALL LONDON 'Militant' pre-election meeting.** Speakers: Ted Grant (Militant Editorial Board); David White (Labour candidate, Croydon Central); A leading trade unionist. Sunday April 29th, 6.30 pm, Unity House, Euston Road

**BRISTOL 'Militant' Public Meeting.** 'Keep the Tories out'. Speaker: Brian Ingham ('Militant' Industrial Correspondent) At the Crown Tavern, Stapleton Road, Bristol. 7.30pm, Sunday 29th April.

**LEICESTER 'Militant' Public Meeting.** 'Keep the Tories out—Labour must win'. Sunday April 22nd. Venue and speakers to be announced.

**BRADFORD Pre-election Rally** 'Keep the Tories out!' 'Militant' Editorial Board speaker. Sunday April 29th 7.30pm. D4 Lecture Theatre, Bradford University.

**GLASGOW 'Militant' Readers' Meeting.** 'Labour to Power—on a socialist programme!' Speakers to be arranged. Thursday April 26th 7.30pm. City Halls, Albion Street, Glasgow.

**DORSET 'Militant' election rally.** 'Keep the Tories out—socialist policies for Labour!'. Retreat Hotel, Ashley Road, Poole, Dorset. Wednesday 25th April 8pm.

**MORRISTON Marxist Discussion Group meetings.** Contact Swansea 33542 for further details.

**CHESTER-LE-STREET Marxist Discussion Group.** Mondays starting at 8pm. For further details contact Eddie Lowerson, Chester-Le-Street Tel: 888146

**WALLSEND Marxist Discussion Group.** The first Wednesday of every month. Contact Wallsend 687678 for details.

**NEWCASTLE Marxist Discussion Group** for students and unemployed. Friday afternoons in Newcastle University. For further details contact Roy Goodspeed. Tel: 748001

## CLASSIFIED

**MILITANT Northern Camp** May 25-28 (Bank Holiday) Programme of discussion: Marxist Economics; Historical Materialism; Marxism and the trade unions; Perspectives for Britain; an international topic. Cost £7, cheques payable to 'Militant Northern Camp'. For further details contact; Richard Knights, 3 Mount Olive Villas, Liverpool 15. Tel: 051-722 0928

**SOUTH WALES Summer Camp—Spring Bank Holiday—** has been cancelled. The organisers are very sorry to disappoint all looking forward to this event, but pressure of work, with the general election, doesn't allow us time to organise. We hope to organise another as soon as possible.

## WORLD BOOKS

**35-hour Week** by Brian Ingham ..... 20p  
**Iranian Revolution:**  
**Militant reprint** ..... 10p  
**History of the Labour Party:**  
**Militant reprints** ..... 30p  
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# ENGINEERING WAGE CLAIM: NATIONAL ACTION NEEDED

The 1979 Confed national wage claim has brought out into the open the 'get tough' attitude of the Engineering Employers' Federation.

Anticipating a Tory election victory, the engineering employers are prepared for confrontation. They have built up considerable funds and the recent circular to its 6,000 member firms spelled out clearly that they intend to "take whatever measures lie in their power" against the unions.

This circular was distributed while member firms were in the middle of negotiations with the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions.

The CSEU claim is for an £80 minimum wage, a planned reduction in the working week to 35 hours, longer holidays, a guaranteed week agreement and better shift allowances, plus other fringe benefits.

The EEF have offered a derisory £5 on the basic rates, taking them to £65 for craftsmen. This should be rejected out of hand.

For most workers, the current £5 offer would come off supplementary or bonus payments. It is only worth pence to the members working overtime or shifts. British engineers work an annual average of 1,940 hours—compared to 1,680 in West Germany, and 25% longer than their Italian counterparts.

We do an average of 8 hours' overtime a week—a weekly total of 6 million hours, while employment in engineering has dropped by 143,770 between 1972-77.

At the same time, the leading engineering firms are in a stronger financial position than ever. Ferranti's

By Steve Davison

(Deputy Convenor,  
Anderton International,  
Bradford)

pre-tax profits increased from £4,101,000 in 1976 to £9,123,000 in 1978, a 122.5% rise, and GEC's rose from £207,200,000 to £325,300,000 in the same period. Our modest claim should be fought for in its entirety.

John Boyd, General Secretary of the AUEW, has stated that the EEF's offer "must force all of us to question the usefulness of any more national negotiations in the engineering industry." He seems to be suggesting that the struggle for better wages and conditions take place at factory level alone, at a time when the EEF has made thorough preparations for a show-down with the unions.

If the employers are prepared to take national action to fight the union, our leadership should pick up the gauntlet and answer with a national campaign of industrial action to win the claim.

In an industry scattered with many small workshops, national co-ordinated action is the key to raising the living standards of all engineering



Welsh engineering workers oppose the employers' ruthless attacks

workers.

The AUEW Executive recently sent out a circular to stewards instructing them that any action taken before a full-time official was involved would not be made official: hardly the leadership factory committees require to take on the employers alone, as Boyd is suggesting.

Boyd accuses the employers of being "Oblivious to all that is happening around them, unresponsive to the challenge of change, blind to the wonderful new future which can be for engineering as we move further into the electronic and microprocessor age."

The employers' only interest is profit. GEC has two-thirds of its capital invested in banks, accumulating interest.

Our union leaders should not bemoan the employers' narrow self-interest, but mobilise the membership to win the claim.

If the employers cannot develop the industry nor give decent wages and conditions then we must take up the demand for the nationalisation of the engineering industry under workers' control and management.

## SOUTH WALES FIGHT LOCKOUT

By Terry Burns

(Bedwellty Labour Party)

Over 500 locked-out engineering workers from Henley Forklift and Hymac Ltd, held a protest march through Cardiff last week. They marched to the Welsh Office and then to the engineering employers federation building in Penarth, to make plain their intention to carry on this fight against the employers' victorian attitudes and behaviour.

This demonstration is an example to all unions in the engineering industry. The united action of workers involved in these two disputes should set an example for concerted action by engineering workers to defeat the bosses' attempts to turn back the clock.

The Hymac shop stewards explained: "The Engineering Employers' Federation have stated in the press and elsewhere that they urge member firms to resist any actions by the trade unions, such as overtime bans, restrictions on output, go slows, etc. with lock-outs. This is the action they have taken against the workforce at Hymac and Henley's."

"Our members are ada-

mant that we will not go back under these conditions. A return on this basis would be a set-back for the whole trade union movement. It has taken us one hundred years to win the rights we now have, including the right to negotiate."

Hymac workers rejected their employers' offer as inadequate and divisive. It affected the bonus system so that some would gain while others lost.

Union members at Hymac "instructed the stewards to go forward for a £70 base rate...The company refused to accept our arguments and so the members decided to put a ban on overtime and not to participate in the bonus system. The action was en-

dorsed by the Merthyr district of the AUEW, making our dispute official.

"Within days the company issued all its manual employees with a statement to the effect that they either return to normal working and accept the company offer or consider themselves dismissed."

In a letter to the local MPs they say: "Strange that the news media can inform its readers about a cat up a tree but remain silent about the employers' stealth in the abduction of hard-won trade union rights."

The letter ends: "Hymac and Henley are locked out today—will it be you tomorrow?" It is the duty of all trade unionists to organise support for these workers.

Protest demonstration  
and rally

Saturday 14th April

Speakers: Neil Kinnock MP; Les Richards, AUEW District Secretary; AUEW executive member and others. Assemble 10.30 am at Libanus playing fields, Blackwood.

## 'EVENING POST' HEAVIES EVICT NOTTINGHAM JOURNALISTS

The new High Sheriff of Nottingham, Mr Pole Carew, showed a fine respect for the rights of his fellow citizens on Saturday afternoon. 28 of them were his employees at the 'Nottingham Evening Post' until he sacked them for taking part in the journalists' strike.

On Saturday a mass picket took place outside the 'Post' offices in support of the 28. The journalists decided to occupy the editorial office. We managed to get into the building and made it clear that we wouldn't leave until Pole Carew agreed to meet the journalists.

When he arrived he elbowed his way through the picket to consult with the police chief. "I just want them out" he said. Then he disappeared.

After about half an hour he returned with a group of 'staff'—a number of whom the journalists didn't recognise, and whose main qualification seemed to be their

size. "I'm going to ask you to leave", "I'll ask you one more time—will you leave?—Right, that's enough warning." With that Mr Carew and his staff set about 'persuading' us to go.

The police said they were entitled to use "reasonable force". Pickets were thrown against walls and over tables and Mike Bower, Northern regional NUJ organiser, was taken to hospital with a suspected broken nose.

The police just melted into the background. Yet a month ago they arrested ten pickets peacefully trying to persuade scabs not to cross the picket line.

It is vital that this dispute is won quickly, and the vicious anti-union management put in its place. It won't be Robin Hood that defeats this sheriff, but determined action from the Nottingham labour movement.

Because of an injunction against their blacking of

adverts, the NGA have called off support for the picket. Trade union leaders must not be intimidated by the use of the law against them. It is clearly being used in the employers' interests.

They must step up the campaign to bring the 'Post' management to heel. Members of all print unions and the NUJ should pass resolutions calling on their union executives to organise more mass pickets and campaign for a maximum turn-out.

The blacking should be maintained, and the rest of the labour movement should be asked for support against this biased use of the law and to beat the 'Evening Post' bosses.

Copies of resolutions should also be sent to Nottingham NUJ, c/o 61 Derby Road, Nottingham.

By Chris Ridge  
and Tony Cross

## STOP BICC KIRKBY CLOSURE

At Kirkby's BICC wire cable factory, 650 jobs are under threat.

A mass meeting on Friday 30th agreed to form an action committee and try to build support from other BICC plants, particularly Huyton and Prescott, where management plans to transfer the Kirkby work.

The first redundancies have been announced for June, but management have given no details of how many workers in which sections are involved.

According to the company's figures, Kirkby has lost £2.8 million in the last four years. But BICC as a whole has increased its profits from £45 to £56.5 million. Products from Kirkby are 'sold' to other factories in the group, with sales, and profit

figures, all controlled from Prescott.

examine the books themselves, there is no way of knowing whether the figures are being juggled to play one group of workers off against another.

If this can be done once, it can be repeated!

The Kirkby workers are determined to fight the loss of jobs in an area already badly-hit by unemployment. The prospects of new jobs are bleak. AKZO Chemicals, a smaller factory opposite, is another on the closure list.

The bosses must not be allowed to divide and rule. The fight must be supported by all BICC workers, and the whole of the trade union movement.

## Leyland mismanagement

A ridiculous situation has developed at Longbridge, British Leyland's biggest car-production plant.

After losing up to 2,000 jobs through voluntary redundancy in the past year, we are now short of labour and the management are having to recruit again.

Due to the labour shortages in the factory we now have almost permanent "block slips" (the tracks being stopped for breaks). Up to 800 cars per month are being lost on the Mini assembly alone. No doubt Allegro production is also suffering.

Perhaps the redundancies should have taken place at managerial level and the shop floor left to run the plant efficiently.

By Bob Geoghegan  
(T&GWU BL Cars Longbridge)



# CIVIL SERVICE PAY UNITED ACTION SHOWS THE WAY

Civil servants showed an unprecedented degree of unity in their magnificent one-day strike on April 2nd.

Many of those taking part in that action were members of the same unions as those general secretaries who had been partners to the secret back-stairs deal with Hattersley. As a result the leaders of CSU and IRSF have changed course and agreed to fall in line with the CPSA and SCPS in rejecting Hattersley's divisive offer.

With co-ordinated action, fully involving all the unions in a major intensification of the campaign, full victory would now be within our grasp.

The right-wing leaders who control the Executive of the CPSA, the largest of the civil service unions, seem, however, to have set their sights on a deal at less than the full and immediate payment of the pay research comparability exercise.

Currently we are being offered 9% now, with the rest of the award postponed, 50% until August this year, and the other 50% not payable until March 1980. By then, the next stage of comparability payments will be due!

The right wing, who have all along supported a 'staged' deal, are reported to be aiming to get the last stage of the settlement brought forward to around the end of this year, with a small additional £1 payment immediately.

Meanwhile they have called off any further official escalation of the action, including the planned strike of the air traffic control assistants over the Easter holidays. This is in spite of the SCPS executive's decision to step up the campaign involving customs members at sea and air ports.

A motion from Kevin Roddy, supported by other left-wing NEC members, demanded a change of strategy to involve airport, DHSS and Department of Employ-

ment members. This motion was "left on the table" for consideration at the next NEC meeting.

**Intensification of the pressure is vital. If the Tories win the general election, can we have any confidence that they will honour an agreement?**

The government is ready to pay the armed forces the 20-25% increase recommended to bring them in line with civilian workers. Why should we accept anything less?

This timid backsliding on the part of our leadership will outrage the union's rank and file. Members have shown they are ready to fight. If the union leaders matched this determination, we could secure the full award.

The NEC will no doubt be flooded with demands from the aroused union membership for speedy escalation of the industrial action to win a quick and full settlement.

**Pat Byrne** (CPSA DHSS Section Executive, in a personal capacity)

## TORIES OFFER NO HOPE

At the 2nd April rally in Glasgow, John Macreadie CPSA national official, got thunderous applause when he quoted Tory MPs on their plans if returned to power. He concluded "from their statements, the Conservative Party offers no hope for trade unions and working people."

"Pressure must be exerted on the Labour government for

an agreement. If the dispute continues during the election, pressure must be put on Labour candidates.

"We must press for the return of a Labour government committed to policies on behalf of trade unions and working people. Labour must implement the PR findings."

Other speakers included SCPS, CSU and IPCS repre-

sentatives. The speaker from the IRSF won loud applause from the IRSF contingent when he said he would report back the view of Glasgow IRSF to reject the 9% offer and unite with the CPSA and SCPS in action.

**Eddie Phillips**  
(DNS Glasgow Branch)

## EETPU EXECUTIVE ELECTION

EETPU branches in South Wales and the West Country (electoral division No. 7) recently nominated their candidates for the forthcoming election of a new Executive Councillor to fill the vacancy created by the death last year of Bernard Clarke, a member of the right-wing majority on the EETPU Executive.

This is a most important election for EETPU members as the union's rules and constitution effectively gives total control of the union to the 15-man Executive Council, who are the only elected officers in a union employing around 200 full-time officials.

In recent years, growing numbers of EETPU members in Division 7 have been involved in industrial struggles and there has been growing dissatisfaction at the

lack of support and leadership from the present Executive Council.

A glaring example of this was the Port Talbot electricians' dispute two years ago against the social contract's effects on differentials.

The EETPU leadership have been among the most ardent supporters of wage restraint over the years. At last year's Labour Party Conference, the union's votes were cast against the Waverley CLP's motion which condemned the 5% limit, even though the EETPU's policy conference has opposed further wage restraint and called for a return to free collective bargaining.

Among the candidates in this election is Wyn Bevan, EETPU convenor at Port Talbot steelworks and a local Labour Party councillor. Four

years ago, Wyn Bevan opposed Bernard Clarke for this position and received almost 4,000 votes in the face of a massive right-wing press campaign.

Wyn has called for a number of essential democratic reforms in the EETPU:

- ★ Election and accountability of all officials;
- ★ Re-introduction of area committees;
- ★ Conference decisions binding on the EC;
- ★ No political bans;
- ★ Agreements to be ratified or rejected by the members concerned before being signed.

AN EETPU MEMBER



Mass meeting of CPSA and SCPS members at Central Hall, London during one-day strike on 23 February: effective co-ordinated action is now the key

Photo: MILITANT

## "Miserably low pay"

Fraser Kemp, Secretary, CPSA Washington Child Benefit Branch, spoke to a member of Chester-Le-Street Labour Party Young Socialists

Our branch was disheartened at the lack of leadership given by the NEC and feel a more positive approach is necessary.

The branch executive committee took a decision, which was reinforced at mass meetings, to bring out 23 key computer workers who are vital to the administration of the Child Benefit Centre. The 23 senior data processors were 100% solid when asked to take industrial action.

We will be paying full wages to the strikers by means of a levy of £1 on all branch members. During the first few days we raised over £1,300.

We feel strongly in the involvement of DHSS and Dept of Employment members and refute suggestions in the mass media that civil servants have not got loyalty

and moral obligations to the job. But in the last analysis moral obligations do not pay the rent or feed the kids.

**I challenge the gutter press to come clean: there can be nothing extortionate about trade unionists going for a rise when many of their members have to claim rent and rate rebates, family income supplements etc, to supplement their miserably low pay.**

We asked for support, including financial support, from the CPSA NEC, but this was refused and we therefore decided on the local levy of members. We feel it is to court disaster not to involve the well-organised and most highly unionised sections of the membership.

As trade unionists who have a genuine concern for

claimants we are certainly not in business to decrease their living standards. But we are left with no alternative to this action.

I would ask that any claimant in difficulty should address their criticism to the government who are at the root of the problem, in refusing to give civil servants a decent living wage. Provision could be made in certain cases for people in dire need by local Social Security offices.

Although the levy is to continue, messages of support and donations should be sent to Fraser Kemp, secretary CPSA Room W6005, Child Benefit Centre, Emerson Buildings, Washington, Tyne and Wear.

## PERKINS WORKERS DEMAND ONE RATE

The anger and frustration of workers at Peterborough's main diesel engineering factory has culminated in an occupation of Perkin's giant Eastfield works.

All entrances are heavily barricaded with lorries and vans. Each gate office is occupied, the mood is determined and confident, the pickets well organised.

The dispute at Perkins—a subsidiary of Canadian multinational Massey-Ferguson with 8,000 workers on the pay roll—results from a long-standing claim for parity

with the Coventry tractor plant.

The parity claim has been denied since 1973, when a month-long lock-out left the issue unresolved. The present offer is phased over several years, with parity finally offered by 1982.

Piece-work rates, like all bonus or productivity schemes, are inevitably divisive. One rate should apply nationally for the same work.

Peterborough, on the edge of the East Anglian fenslands, is a comparatively low-wage area. There is no reason, however, why this should continue.

If this action is to achieve full parity in 1979, it is vital that the AUEW—with exclusive negotiating rights—and the other unions involved, particularly ASTMS and APEX, representing the staff, give their unqualified backing to the strike action.

The decision to continue the strike must be given full support by all trade unionists in the Peterborough area, for a quick and successful conclusion. This time, the Perkins' workers must win parity in full.

Len Bates  
(TSSA)



# Militant

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## NUT CONFERENCE EDUCATION ATTACKED BY TORIES

**A Thatcher government would be a disaster for education. For teachers—meeting for their conference at Easter—fighting the Tory threat is as important an issue as the NUT's current pay claim.**

In Liverpool, for instance, the Liberal-Tory coalition has budgeted for 300 fewer teachers than last year, with an extra threat of redundancies if the pay rise is more than the increase in the Rate

**Felicity Dowling**  
 (Liverpool NUT personal capacity)

Support Grant. Another £300,000 is to be cut from Liverpool's educational equipment and stationery.

The Tories are looking at ways to cut up to £400 million from education expenditure. But they also want to subsidise public schools. For "public relations" reasons, Rhodes Boyson was removed from his post as the Tories' junior education spokesman, but the party of big business remains implacably hostile to popular education.

NUT conference last year instructed the Executive to negotiate for the restoration of Houghton values in our wage packets. This the Executive are attempting to do. Our salaries have fallen 36½% behind the Houghton relativities. The 9% offer is indeed a "slap in the face". The Scottish teachers who have already taken industrial

action have been offered a better deal.

Conference, however, must improve the Executive's case with the membership. Last year's conference instruction simply to 'restore Houghton' did not take into account the enormous and ridiculous differentials involved, e.g. a £750 pa increase for those on poverty wages on Scale I and a £5,100 increase for head teachers on top pay.

A flat rate increase as a means of uniting and heartening the membership would not be against the union policy, and could be a stage towards restoring external Houghton relativities.

The education service has been the target of vicious cuts. The union's class-size

policy has still not been implemented. An estimated 63,000 teachers are still required to bring class sizes to 30, and a massive 158,000 teachers are required to bring class sizes down to 25, which is Labour policy.

### National campaign

A well-publicised national campaign must be launched to reduce class sizes. The campaign should include leaflets, school-by-school meetings, campaign meetings for representatives, and an efficient liaison with other unions. The campaign should be taken into the trade union movement in general, and to

the general public, culminating, if necessary, in strike action.

The labour movement has traditionally fought for education for working people. The Labour government under pressure from the CBI and big business has implemented disastrous cuts. Yet the Tories have criticised these as being "inadequate". If they regard Labour as "spendthrift", what would be left of state education after Tory "economies"?

Teachers who care about education for all children must fight for a Labour victory, and join the fight in the Labour Party to ensure that a Labour government carries out truly socialist policies.

## DEEP DUFFRYN NO TO PIT CLOSURE

**The South Wales coalfield has been worked for over 140 years. Millions of tons of coal, including the only anthracite produced in Britain and prime quality coking coal lie underground.**

About 36,500 men work in its 37 collieries.

But once again jobs are being threatened and unemployment looms for South Wales miners.

The area coal board director, Phil Weekes, recently disclosed to the NUM the names of ten collieries which they propose to shut over the next eight years, unless the area becomes "economically viable".

According to the NCB's methods of analysis, thirty out of the thirty-seven collieries are losing money.

Having released this information, Weekes then stated on TV that providing South Wales could be made viable in the next few years, the pits making money could help those that are 'losing'. This type of public relations exercise is designed to take the sting out of any union campaign against pit closures.

At present, the NCB is intransigent in its intention to close Deep Duffryn colliery by May/June this year. This would mean the loss of 500 jobs in the Mountain Ash area.

The local NUM lodge has taken a salutary stand against the closure.

They have proved, using

the know-how of the NUM Engineering and Safety officials, that approximately 2½ million tons of coal lie within the take of Deep Duffryn. A feasibility study proved that it would cost between £2½m-£3m—half the figure the NCB have given—to develop through the fault area to reach the new coal reserves.

The Cynon Valley Action Committee recently organised a public meeting of over 450 in Mountain Ash. Peter Evans, Lodge Chairman, said that the closure would mean one in twelve unemployment in the town—devastating the community.

Mike Griffin, Secretary, laid the blame for the lack of capital investment in the pit fairly and squarely on the NCB's shoulders. A resolution from the meeting condemned the bad stewardship and mis-management that has led to the run-down of the pits in the area.

Emlyn Williams, President South Wales area NUM, criticised the 'un-socialist' policies being pursued by the government. The tri-partite



Miners' livelihoods at stake

energy committee, set up with replacement policies as the condition for financial aid in the area, was—as far as he was concerned—far from acceptable.

The 'ripartite committee, on releasing its final report to the press, announced: "There shall be no premeditated pit closures in South Wales". But the NUM should be under no illusions as to the weight of this statement. If it means a retreat to the old policy of picking off pits one by one, it remains a purely verbal concession.

The NUM must stick to its area policy of opposing all pit closures except on the grounds of proven exhaustion and bad geological conditions. The

Executive Committee should continue in the campaign to inform—and mobilise—NUM members to protect jobs.

The revolution in Iran which has further pushed up world oil prices, and the potentially disastrous accident at the Harrisburg nuclear power station in Pennsylvania, have again highlighted the problems associated with other sources of energy.

Above all, there is need for a planned energy policy. If the rest of the energy industry worked in conjunction with coal, on the basis of society's needs, not profit, the jobs of South Wales miners could be guaranteed under the best possible conditions for mine-workers.

## CAR WORKERS FIGHT TORIES

**"The Tories are the party of the employers. We have to keep them out.**

**"Rover workers must work for Labour to keep the Tory wolves at bay, but let our slogan be: "Labour to Power on a Socialist Programme".**

This is the message hammered out by the British Leyland, Rover, Solihull, Confederated Shop Stewards who have just issued a leaflet "Why Rover Workers Should Vote Labour".

"We must work for the biggest possible Labour majority, so the leaders can have

no excuse for not introducing the Socialist measures that we need:

★ A fully nationalised motor industry under workers' control, not sham participation, that can guarantee the jobs of every car worker

★ A planned, nationalised economy, that can use the wealth of the nation for the benefit of the majority, ending unemployment and inflation for good.

"Work with us for a Labour victory! The Rover Campaign for a Labour Victory Committee will be organising canvassing teams etc."

## LEICESTER- DEMONSTRATE AGAINST FASCISM

**A counter-mobilisation has been called by the Leicester Trades Council and anti-racist groups against the planned march of the fascists through Leicester on 21 April. The National Front are aiming to make this the high point of their election campaign.**

The fascists are still attempting to spread their vile racist filth, to intimidate the immigrant population

of Leicester, and to divide the working class at the time of a crucial election campaign.

The anti-NF mobilisation has been called on the basis of "No platform for fascists", but in order to ensure this there must be a mass turn-out by the labour movement nationally as well as by the movement and immigrant workers in Leicester.

The counter rally is at Victoria Park, London Road, Leicester at 12 noon [21 April].

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