

Militant

THE MARXIST PAPER FOR LABOUR & YOUTH

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15p

INSIDE
Militant's programme
For a socialist plan of
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FIGHT THE TORY VANDALS

Don't be taken in. Who wouldn't like to pay less tax? But for ordinary workers the Tories' tax cut proposals are a fraud!

For the wealthy, the Tories' tax hand-outs would mean a bonanza. For most workers, however, the cuts in income tax will be trivial.

And we would pay dearly for them. Prices up. More vital services cut. Even more jobs lost.

The promised tax cuts must amount to £3,000 to £4,000 million. Yet they aim to raise public spending by about £2,000 million—mainly on arms and the police.

How will this be paid for? VAT will go up, together with tax on petrol, beer, and tobacco. This means a 4p in the £ rise in the cost of living straight away.

Tory cuts would almost certainly mean: council rents up £3 a week; school meals up, perhaps

doubled; rail fares up.

Tory tax cuts, above all, will mean devastating cuts in education, health, and other vital social services. At the moment, the Tories won't say where. Mealy mouthed and evasive, Thatcher talks about 'cutting out waste' and 'value for money'.

One big-business journal, however, leaves no doubt about it:

"If a Thatcher government is to make the tax reductions it is pledged to make", says the 'Economist' [21 April] "it knows it must tackle this monster with a savagery never known in the past...A Thatcher cabinet would not merely dance round the monster

By
Lynn Walsh

BEWARE OF TORY TAX SWINDLE

cutting out waste."

The terrible "monster" they are talking about—public spending—means decent schools, nurseries, free health treatment, help in finding a reasonable home.

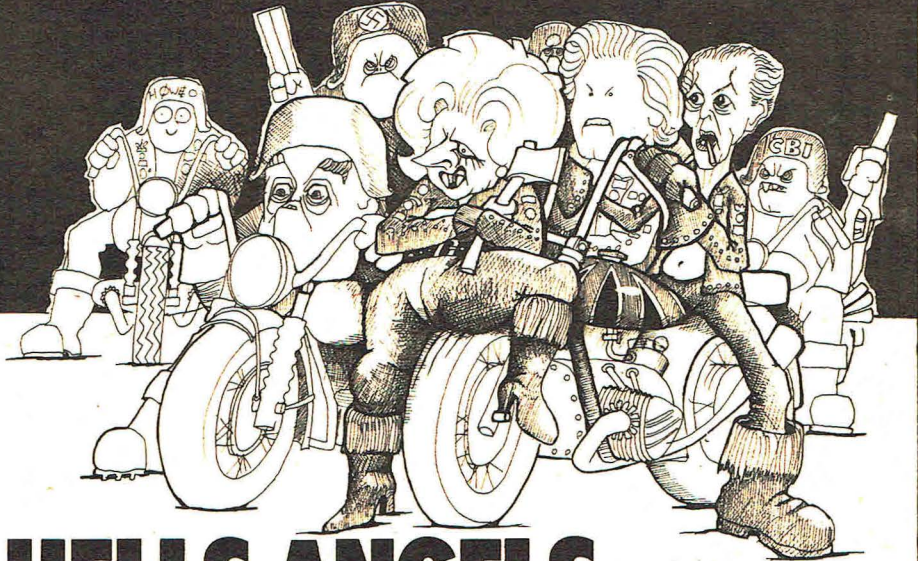
If you subscribe to private health schemes, of course, the NHS is a monster. If you send your children to Eton, then 'lavish' expenditure on comprehensive schools is monstrous.

Rich avoid tax anyway

If you regard your well-appointed residence primarily as a property investment, then council houses to free families from the landlords' jungle are indeed a monstrosity.

Yet the rich, according to Mrs Thatcher, "must" have their tax cuts. These

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HELLS ANGELS - FRESH VIOLENCE FEARED.

Alan Harrison 29/4/79

Speke workers lobby Dunlop HQ in March



Photo: MILITANT

SAVE SPEKE JOBS

"We built the plant. We made the profits. Now Dunlops have thrown us on the dole.

"The bosses have destroyed the lives of over 2,000 people. Families, friendships built up over years are being destroyed."

This is how one Speke worker put it to us—expressing the feelings of all Dunlop workers this week.

The 90-day redundancy notice ran out on April 19. Now the action committee have set up a picket around the plant, and also at the main factories in Birmingham, Inchinnan, Walton, and Coventry. They aim to halt all Dunlop operations in Britain.

The T&GWU are officially backing this action, and are calling on all trade unionists to black all

By
Richard Knights

Dunlop goods.

What future is there in Speke? Unemployment is between 30-40%. It is fast becoming an industrial wasteland. Empty factories litter the estate, bleak epitaphs to the hopes of thousands of workers and their children.

Who can measure the effect of unemployment? The misery? The despair? The hopelessness?

The Dunlop bosses have closed Speke in the name of profitability. What do they care? From the plush boardroom, it's just a cross on the map.

Apologists for the bosses, like local Tory MP Anthony Steen, have tried to

blame the closure on Speke's strike record.

But aren't they just trying to throw dust in our eyes? What is the real reason for closure? First and foremost it's the chronic starvation of capital

Over the last ten years investment has been steadily cut: in 1968 it amounted to £744,000. By 1978 it was £388,000. And in some years it fell even lower: only £209,000 in 1975.

During these ten years, depreciation i.e. assets 'written-off' as used up or worn out) ran at an average of £500,000 a year. In only three of the last ten years did investment exceed depreciation. Especially considering the fall in the value of the £ in this period this is an abysmal record.

How can the jobs be saved? From the first day of the threatened closure 'Militant' supporters have been arguing that the only way to force the hand of the management would be Continued on back page

VOTE LABOUR. DEMAND
SOCIALIST POLICIES

ELECTION ROUND-UP... ELECTION ROUND-UP... ELECTION ROUND-UP...

CROYDON CENTRAL

Young Socialists canvass meets enthusiastic response

The highly successful mass canvass last Saturday in Croydon Central was an indication of the enthusiasm which can be engendered in the struggle to keep out the Tories.

On the basis of a fighting socialist campaign by the local Party and the Labour candidate, David White, more than 200 LPYS members from all over London flooded into the huge council estate of New Addington.

Canvassing both morning

and afternoon, the whole estate was covered by the LPYS.

In between more than 250 people crushed into the Youth Rally on the estate to hear the candidate David White and Phil Frampton LPYS National Chairman. Despite being held at Sunday lunchtime there was a good contingent

of local people eager to hear the ideas of socialism.

The attacks by the capitalist press on David White were a main focus of attention. The speakers pointed out the hypocrisy of the Tory press labelling candidates standing for socialism, for Clause 4 Part 4 of the Labour Party constitution as extremist.

Who could be more extreme than the Tories? They planned the most savage attacks on trade union rights, and on services like health and housing. This attack required a firm socialist answer from

the labour movement.

The tremendous enthusiasm of the meeting and canvassing showed that all the venom of the Tory press will not stop the ideas of socialism getting an enthusiastic hearing by workers during this election campaign.

HELP NEEDED

Further meetings have been organised in the area following the success of the mass canvass and Neil Kinnock's meeting on Saturday which attracted 100 people.

Tony Benn, Ray Buckton, Clive Jenkins and Ian Mikardo are due to speak at meetings in the constituency.

Help is still needed in Croydon Central. Helpers will be very welcome any evening from 7pm; on Sunday 29th April from 10.30 am, and all day on polling day May 3rd.

All helpers should either go to Ruskin House, 23 Coombe Road, Croydon, or ring 01-688 1378 for details.

Common sense?

Exeter LPYS took an evening off canvassing to go to a Tory public meeting.

There, we were confronted by all the regalia of Tory backwoods opinion. One Tory lady, done up to the nines, called the unions "paid highwaymen."

Mr Edward Du Cann, leader of the "1922 committee", claimed that the majority of the unions wanted the Tories in for their "moderate, common sense" policies. Many trade unionists, however, will remember "Grocer" Heath's "moderate, commonsense" attempts to shackle the unions with the Industrial Relations Act. The fellings of most trade unionists were summed up by Gary Booker, a member of the T&GWU: "I'm a trades unionist and you've not got my vote."

Having seen the Tories in action, Exeter LPYS will be going out with even more determination to ensure the return of a Labour government.

Mick Whale
(Exeter LPYS)



Part of the audience at the Youth Rally in New Addington

Feature on New Addington
page 6

ISLE OF WIGHT

By Jill Hayes

A packed meeting on 'Housing' last Thursday got Isle of Wight Labour Party's campaign off to a terrific start.

Cathy Wilson, the parliamentary candidate, said that for socialists a decent house was a basic right—which the profit system could not provide. Working people, through rent or mortgage payments spend most of their lives boosting the profits of the banks and finance houses. A £20,000 council house costs up to £150,000 once loan repayments are completed.

She attacked Tory plans for the sale of council houses—which could never be replaced. In 1972 and 1973 104,000 council houses were sold, under the Heath govern-

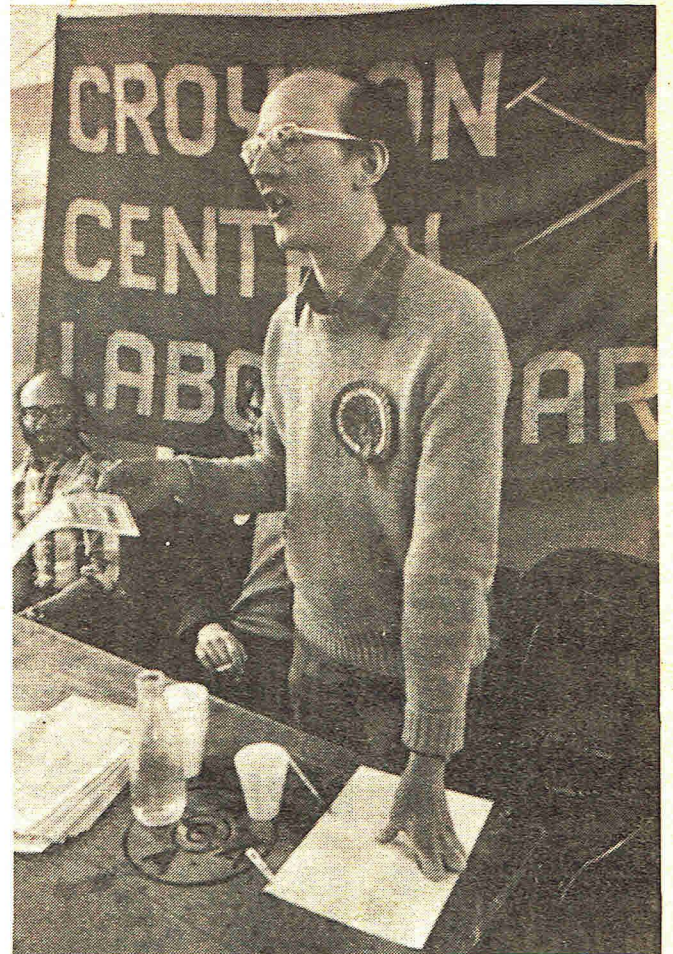
ment,—more than the number of new council houses built in 1972, '73 or '74. With their plans for vicious cuts in public spending, the Tories could only offer more misery to families on ever increasing waiting lists. Cathy supported the provisions of Labour's 'Tenants' Charter' for increased right of council tenants to control their own homes and communities. Cathy called for the nationalisation of the banks, of land and the building industry to ensure that houses were built for need and not for profit.

There was tremendous enthusiasm at the meeting for the election campaign and for the work of building the Party on socialist policies which could really solve the problems of working people.

A collection raised £14.50 net for the election campaign.



Cathy Wilson, Labour candidate for Isle of Wight



David White speaks to 'Youth for Labour' rally

Photos: MILITANT

LEICESTER DEMONSTRATION AGAINST TORIES

Heather Rawling
(Leicester South LP)

This Saturday (28 April), Leicester South, a marginal Labour-held constituency, has organised a demonstration against the Tories.

This was initiated by the Labour Party Young Socialists and met with unanimous support of Leicester South Management Committee.

Leicester South is a marginal with a Labour majority of just over 1,000 votes.

To co-ordinate this work, a trade union organiser for the constituency was elected and this comrade (Paul Whelpton) managed to organise over twenty factory-gate meetings in the constituency for the MP, Jim Marshall, with a Labour Party Young Socialist speaker on every platform.

This has meant new members for the Labour Party and the Young Socialists through campaigning on socialist policies. To defeat the Tories, trade union and youth leaflets have been drawn up by the Leicester South LPYS and have been distributed at meetings and during canvassing.

Already, the sponsors for

the Labour Party demo include the following unions; APEX, NGA, SOGAT, T&G WU, TASS, GMWU, NUM, NUHKKW, UPW and personal support from the NUM and TGWU.

It is not difficult to argue what the Tories would do if elected nationally, for in Leicester the Tory Council has presided over a council-house waiting list of over 10,000, a six to nine months waiting list and they even showed their true colours by underspending their housing budget by £2 million last year.

This clearly shows what the grim reality of life would be for working people if the Tories were to be elected on the 3rd May.

Only the commitment to socialist policies will overcome the menace of Toryism. **Demonstrate against the Tories, Saturday 28th April: Meet at 1.30 p.m., Victoria Park gates. March to Spinney Hill Park.**

Speakers: Jim Marshall [Leicester South MP], Tony Saunois [Labour Party NEC], Pete Saulsby [Harborough Labour candidate], Ray Carr [Dunlop AUEW/TASS and Dunlop's National Negotiating Committee UK].

Labour right wingers fail to attract

Whenever a clear socialist campaign is waged in the election, as in Croydon Central, tremendous enthusiasm has been shown, and workers have flocked to election meetings and rallies.

The right wing of the Labour Party have been less successful, even when quite well known government ministers are speaking. The 'Guardian' reported on 21st April that Transport Secretary William Rodgers addressed an audience of 10, of whom only 3 were members of the public, at a public meeting in Bolton.

Apologising for the turnout, the meeting chairman said all Labour Party members were out canvassing. "Undeterred," the 'Guardian' says, "Mr Rodgers delivered a prepared speech on the government's record."

ELECTION ROUND-UP... ELECTION ROUND-UP... ELECTION ROUND-UP...

GARSTON

Action to keep out the Tories

In February 1974, Eddie Loyden won the seat of Liverpool, Garston by the smallest of majorities—under 200!

With the importance of this marginal seat, and the stand Eddie has taken in Parliament, the Labour Party, the trade unions, and the LPYS launched a mass canvass in the area in October 1974—and Eddie won by 3,000 votes.

The local press regards Garston as the area of 'Princes and Paupers'. It includes Netherley, one of the

worst council estates in the country, and Speke, an area devastated by closures and redundancies.

It is therefore against this background that Eddie Loyden is again elected to continue the fight for policies to end unemployment and slum housing.

A mass canvass will be held on Sunday, 29 April, with Eddie speaking at a 'Militant' meeting in the evening. The YS in Garston have already won new members, and YS speakers will be speaking at the public meetings being



Eddie Loyden, Labour candidate

organised by the constituency. There will also be a special leaflet appealing for youth to vote Labour at the election.

The YS have also organised a day of action followed by a rally with speakers including Eddie Loyden, Terry Fields [FBU], Terry Harrison [Liver-

pool/Bootle EEC prospective candidate], and a YS speaker, as well as a demonstration on Saturday, 28 April through the town centre.

By Josie Aitman
(LPYS National Committee)

LPYS ON THE AIR

Tony Saunois, Young Socialist representative on Labour's National Executive, and Glenys Ingham, Editor of the LPYS paper 'Left', will be on Anne Nightingale's 'Mailbag Election Special' on Radio One between 7 and 8 p.m. on Wednesday 2 May.

Together with representatives of the Young Liberals and Young Tories they will be commenting on letters and answering questions.

Write in now [with a short letter] or postcard putting your questions and comments on election issues to: Anne Nightingale, Mailbag Election Special, BBC London W1A 4WW.

Young workers eager for socialist ideas

Between 400 and 500 workers, senior citizens, and swarms of young kids and teenagers turned up to hear Jim Callaghan in Hatfield, Hertfordshire, on Wednesday.

The Labour leader spoke for about 60 seconds and was then ushered away by his security guards.

However, LPYS members and 'Militant' supporters received an enthusiastic reception.

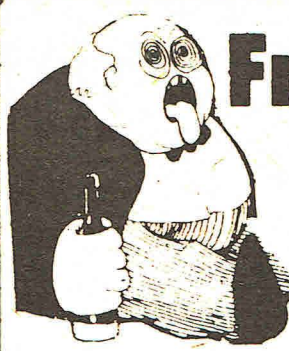
Kids clamoured eagerly for the YS stickers and within a few minutes we had none left.

In a short space of time, over 50 'Militants' were sold, and several names and addresses collected of young people wishing to join the LPYS. There is a great thirst for ideas, especially among young people. Tremendous opportunities lay open for gaining massive support for Labour, if the positive ideas of the 'Militant' and LPYS are used.

By Hope Lerner
(Ware and Hertford LPYS)

Opinion polls

Our second article on opinion polls, "The samplers and the sampled", will now appear in next week's issue.



From their own mouths

"If there were to be more years of Socialism the pursuit of economic equality, to which the Labour Party remains pledged, would then turn this country into a totalitarian slum."

Sir Keith Joseph, Tory MP, 20th April 1979.

Margaret Thatcher has just announced that she has a new economic advisor and speech writer, Professor Douglas Hague.

Hague was given a CBE last year by the Labour government and headed a governmental working party on the future of the Workers' Co-operative at Kirkby.

"Immigrants should be paid up to £2,000 each to return to their original countries".

Ronald Bell, Tory MP for Beaconsfield writing in the 'Bucks Free Press'.

"All the Americans I know, including members of the Administration, are quietly praying for a Conservative victory..."

"The men who murdered George Markov in London who are in total breach of their obligations on human rights in the Helsinki Agreement and who brutally suppress minorities, who supply arms and nothing else to stir up war and bloodshed in the Third World and whose declared enemy is Western democracy, these evil men do not pray, they are dependent upon a Labour victory".

Robert Rhodes James, Tory MP for Cambridge, 20 April 1979.

"And what respect or influence will be left in Southern Africa, where tribal loyalties mean so much, if we betray our kinfolk upon whom the advancement of all races depends."

John Biggs Davidson, Tory MP, 'Conservative News', February 1979.

"We shall certainly ensure that taxpayers' money does not go to those countries who show a gross abuse of human rights or who go against British interests, such as Vietnam, Mozambique and Ethiopia."

Richard Luce MP, Tory spokesman on Overseas Development, 23 April 1979.

The Tory County Council in Buckinghamshire have just given us an indication of what they mean when talk of re-introducing 'discipline into schools'.

This week they announced they are giving teachers power to cane 5 year-olds! It seems as if the viciousness and barbarism of the Tories is to apply throughout the working class, whatever the age.



"SELF SACRIFICE IS OUR ONLY SALVATION" Alan Handman

Fighting against the Tories and their capitalist backers

West Stirlingshire

A mass canvass by the LPYS in the West Stirling constituency last Saturday proved highly successful.

Fifty LPYS members canvassed in the mining villages of Cowie, Plean and Bannockburn and got an enthusiastic response. Three hundred papers were sold and 80 people attended the youth rally in the afternoon.

Dennis Canavan MP, de-

fending a 367 seat majority, congratulated the LPYS on the good work they were doing in the election.

After the meeting, also addressed by Tony Saunois from the Labour Party NEC, a number of young people expressed an interest in joining the LPYS.

By Jim Newlands

NOTICES AND MEETINGS

ROCHESTER Militant Readers' Meeting. Venue: Hare and Hounds Public House, Rochester High Street, Thursday May 10th, 7.30 pm

STAFFORD Militant Public Meeting. Rose and Crown, Market Street. 7.30 pm. Friday 4 May. 'After the election—what next?'

NEW MILITANT BADGES available: 'Tories Out—Socialist Policies for Labour'. Red and black, white background. Essential wearing for the election. Cost: 20p each, order of 5-20: 17p each; over 20: 15p; plus postage. Contact N Brooks, 77 Atherley Road, Southampton, phone 736375

The Greater London Association of Trades Councils are organising a May Day march this year. It will be assembling at 1.30 pm on Tuesday May 1st at Cleopatra's Needle, Embankment, and going to Hyde Park.



LPYS, mobilised against the fascists

Photo: J Woulfe

Fascist Provocation Thwarted

The National Front suffered another blow to their falling morale in Leicester last Saturday when they called a national mobilisation in the city which had always been regarded as the diamond in their crown.

Far from being successful, only about 400 National Front came to Leicester, and their attempt to march through the city was thwarted by the mobilisation of at least 5,000 anti-fascists.

From the very start of the march, despite the massive police protection, the National Front were under attack from every sort of missile. The

fascists at the front of the march took a real battering, so much so that the police were forced to divert the march and direct the NFers straight to their meeting place.

The anti-fascists won the day by preventing the fascists from marching around the city centre. Instead, the NF was reduced to a bloody and battered group who marched for a mere ten minutes.

One disturbing feature throughout the day was the presence of Special Branch detectives; thinly disguised with Anti-Nazi League badges, etc. Even worse, at the end was the extreme violence

used by the Police—culminating in letting loose the dogs on the anti-fascists.

The police used the event to practice their latest methods of crowd-control and 'counter insurgency'. Riot shields and goggles were much in evidence. There were 5,000 police on duty at a claimed cost of £250,000.

About 87 were arrested, including one 'Militant' supporter. Donations for legal defence should be sent to the LPYS, c/o 221 Mere Road, Highfields, Leicester.

By Anil Singh
(Harborough LPYS)

NEWHAM NORTH EAST LABOUR PARTY MARXIST APPROACH VINDICATED

Not content with having its own Tory Party, the British ruling class is trying to decide who should be the candidates of the workers' party, the Labour Party.

As the strength of the left has increased in recent years, the Tory papers have not wasted any opportunity to attack left-wing candidates, or local Labour Parties that have decided democratically to change their representative.

The bosses' main fear has been to try to prevent workers from exercising their democratic rights to control the Labour Party.

This has been especially illustrated by the events in Newham North East over the last five years. The experience of that struggle, and the role 'Militant' supporters played in fighting implacably for party democracy and socialist policies, has lessons for all members of the labour movement.

The decision of Newham NE Labour Party in July 1975 to withdraw its endorsement as official Labour candidate from Reg Prentice, then a Labour Cabinet Minister, brought it up against the opposition, at various times, of the right-wing hierarchy of the Parliamentary Labour Party, of the Party machine at Transport House, of the Tory press and even of the courts.

The events of Newham were not the result of "conspiracy". They reflected the process of transformation of the tradi-

tional mass party of the British working class; a process which is, as yet, in its early beginnings.

The unfolding drama of Newham in the last five years presages future developments which the Labour Party generally will undergo.

In that struggle socialists will find themselves opposed by all the various sections of the ruling class. Nothing will be more vehement than the hysterical shrieking of the bosses' press.

"For the Tory press, of course, the idea of seeking out reality paled into insignificance beside the chance of running a 'Trotskyite' scare about the Labour Party.

"After all, had not Margaret Thatcher been running the line for some time about how deeply the Left had bitten into the Labour Party."

"For her, Trotskyite or Tribunitite did not make any difference. It was a "Red scare" which should be played for all it was worth". Tribune 20th April 1979.

But a firm socialist approach to workers can undermine that attack. That has been one of the lessons of Newham.

There the Tory press spared nothing in attempting to depict the membership and officers of Newham North East Labour Party as "wreckers", "disrupters" and "extremists".

In local elections, the Conservatives have issued leaflets warning that the local Labour Party has been taken over by "Trotskyists, Marxists and extremists".

But every time elections have taken place in Newham since 1975, major swings to Labour have been recorded.

In May 1976 local elec-

trician John Wilson was elected to the Greater London Council to represent Newham North East with a much increased vote. He replaced Labour right winger Tom Jenkinson who, like Prentice, had been de-selected.

Similarly in May 1977 when Labour was losing hand over fist in the borough elections all over London, Labour chalked up six gains in Newham North East to give a borough council made up of 57 Labour councillors and 3 Ratepayers!

This clearly represents an endorsement by the working class electorate of a Party which has striven to put up candidates more representative of workers' interests.

It is the irrefutable answer to the faint-hearts in the movement who argue that socialist policies lose votes!

One of the clearest features emerging from the Newham struggle has been the need on a number of important occasions for the Marxists to take a stand against the hesitation, vacillation and weakness displayed at decisive moments by a number of prominent but

meeting.

'Militant' supporters argued that the meeting should proceed but, in the absence of a clear lead from constituency officers, it broke up in confusion. The result was to encourage the 'legal experts'

The local Party chairman and secretary were saddled with over £6,000 in legal costs and, in the ensuing months, no less than 15 further injunctions were granted by compliant judges to supporters of Lewis and McCormick who temporarily gained control of the Executive Committee and used this to 'suspe d' meetings of the General Committee.

When the General Committee finally met on September 28, 1977, the firm line advocated by the Marxists was put to the test. Andy Bevan was elected into the chair.

Again, High Court writs were served half way through the meeting. But this time, the meeting completed its business. Lewis, McCormick and two of their 'helpers' were quickly ejected.

Subsequently, legal proceedings for contempt of Court were brought against Andy Bevan, 'Militant' supporter Tom Jenkins and five other Party members.

This Court case, unlike the preceding ones, involved imprisonable offences and was therefore held in open court. It was defended as a political case.

Over 200 Party members paraded at the High Court when the case opened on October 26, 1977 and the Labour Party NEC was successfully pressurised to support the defendants who had decided to take their defence away from Transport House lawyers.

The result was acquittal with all costs going against Lewis and McCormick. They were decisively broken. The prospect of a major political campaign against judicial intervention in the labour movements affairs was clearly effective.

Once this particular battle was won the right wing in Newham North East was totally in disarray. The way was open to consolidate a major victory for left wing officers at the AGM in February 1978.

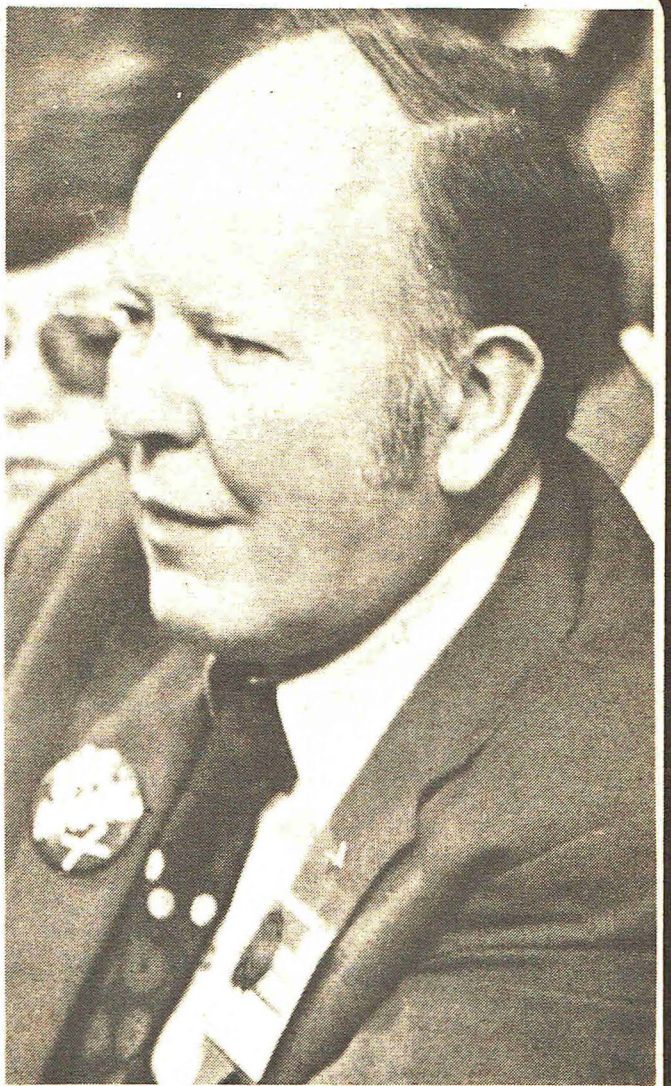
Yet socialist trade unionists and 'Militant' supporters had to work hard to convince some prominent local Tribunitites of the folly of a proposed deal with the 'non-Lewis' right wing—in effect, an attempt to consolidate the Party to the right not to the left.

In the event, after much argument, an all-left slate of officers from 'Militant', 'Tribune' and other leftist strands of opinion was elected overwhelmingly.

However, the selection process which finally took place in June-July 1978 again showed the tendency of many 'Tribune' lefts to take the line of least resistance.

Dickens calculated, at the selection conference that the 'Tribune' vote—about 26 strong on the General Committee at that time—was in the bag. He therefore attempted to consolidate the votes to the right of 'Tribune' (about 11) behind him, rather than those to the left (about 20).

His policy then appeared to be to attempt to swing the local party behind his politics of wage restraint and to isolate the consistent left.



Prentice wearing his 'I love Maggie' badge at last year's Tory conference

After his selection, some sections of the constituency Party who had backed his candidature continued to defend Dickens and even swung over to defend wage restraint, to denounce Conference decisions and generally drift rightwards.

This drift has been halted by Dickens' surprise resignation.

In all these circumstances the question has to be posed whether reselection would have gone through at all, whether Prentice would have been forced to show his hand and whether Newham North East would have gone forward at all without the important part played by 'Militant', whose strength has always been its local trade union support.

During these battles, over a period of five years, Newham North East Labour Party has swung left and grown in size, the average age of its membership has fallen sharply and the participation of active, militant trade unionists within it has noticeably increased.

By virtue of an implacable fighting approach, the position of Marxism, of the 'Militant', has increased to the point where, in July 1978, over one-third of the General Committee, including a majority of the trade union left, voted for a Marxist, Nick Bradley as the parliamentary candidate.

In effect, the pressure of left-wingers within the constituency proved too much for the 'compromise' candidate, Jim Dickens, who defended wage restraint and who defied Party Conference decisions on the shorter working week and a guaranteed minimum wage.

Just as the defection of Prentice to the Tories was a complete vindication of the struggle to deselect him, so the resignation of Dickens on April 9 1979, less than a month before a crucial General Election, has been a total vindication of the Marxists.

'Militant' supporters had argued against his anti-socialist policies and pointed in warning to the weakness, confusion and naivety of the 'Tribune' supporters who supported his candidature in

the first place.

It is important to realise that the Newham events have not been a purely local peculiarity. They have merely magnified and revealed in a concentrated way the process of change in the Labour Party nationally.

They have been affected too by the industrial battles of the last five years. What brought dissatisfaction with Prentice to a head was his statements in 1972 condemning the Pentonville 5 as "criminals". This from an MP representing part of the London docks!

In the same way, the argument on wage restraint with Dickens in September and October last year would have seemed rather remote from reality and some delegates, were it not for his denunciation of the strikers at Fords whose Dagenham plant employs many Newham workers.

In the aftermath of Dickens' resignation and faced with an imposed shortlist of three, Newham North East has selected Ron Leighton, a NATSOPA member and nightshift Fleet Street printer as candidate.

Leighton was selected above all as a parliamentary steward, as a worker and as an anti-wage restraint trade unionist. He gave a commitment to be held accountable on this basis.

If Newham North East Labour Party now fights the forthcoming election on a clear socialist platform, refuses to go on the defensive and explains its programme, a further strengthening of Labour's 13,000 majority and a major influx of new, working class members will take place.

Above all, the lessons of Newham are the need for clear policy and leadership. On that basis and with an expanding working class membership the position of consistent socialist policies has been greatly strengthened and will continue to be so to a growing extent in the months and years ahead.

By 'Militant' Reporters



Newham Labour Party members at the High Court, October 1977

Photo: Andrew Wiard (Report)

THE TORY FACE OF LIBERALISM

The Isle of Wight at present has a Liberal MP elected on the basis of working class support in order to keep the Tory

out! We decided that we would ask whether or not questions could be asked so that we could get our ideas across by either heckling or straight questions.

We need not have bothered! His audience of three swelled with our attendance.

After claiming that the Labour Manifesto covered up such ideas as nationalisation of the banks etc and the building industry he went on to outline his policies.

He said he believed in a mixed economy and a prices

and incomes policy. The latter issue, he said was a problem in that constant change in governments led to their breakdown.

Liberals should be elected so that there was a good chance of obtaining Proportional Representation and coalition.

Then the crucial part! He said we must create the wealth and incentive in the private sector.

A 20% bottom rate and a 50% top rate for income tax, with profit sharing and participation in industry. This he said would create the necessary development in the economy to pay for the services we require.

However he went on, it would also require putting tax on by indirect methods i.e. VAT and then people could choose what they wanted to buy.

Of course our hands shot up to ask a question. After taking a Liberal question first he was unable to ignore us.

We pointed out that UK big business enjoyed the largest government subsidies in the way of grants, tax concessions etc, in W Europe, and also the lowest labour costs in the industrialised nations and yet the entrepreneurs still would not invest.

So we asked, how would he ensure that it would happen

with his policies?

He replied, that there was no guarantee they would invest and he was "not sure his policies would work".

What a self condemnation!

Just to dig his grave even deeper he said he was satisfied with his standard of living (who wouldn't be on MPs wages) and that people did not always want the top standard of living.

This pathetic performance has just given us more encouragement to redouble our efforts to win votes on concrete policies which really offer an alternative to all forms of Toryism.

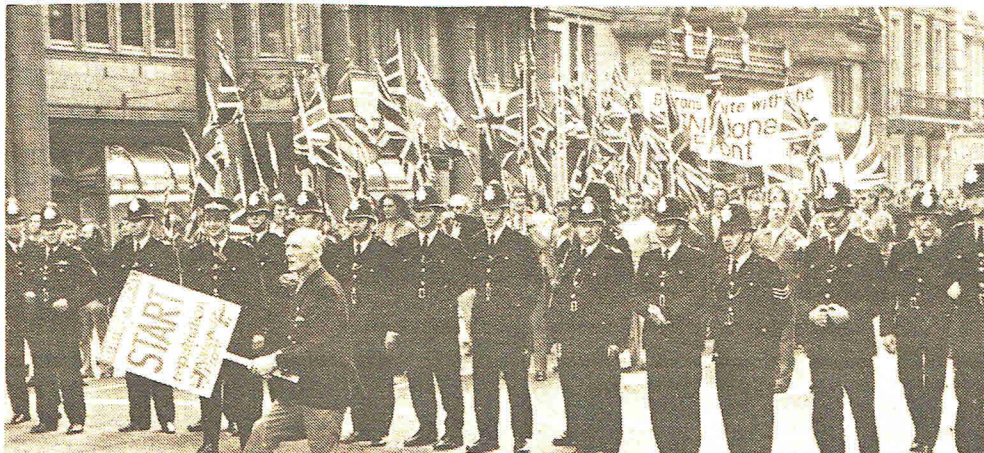
Tony Beere (IOW CLP)

LABOUR MOVEMENT MOBILISES TO FIGHT FASCISTS AND TORIES

In the coming election, the National Front will be putting up candidates all over the country. In Brighton the fascists will be met head-on by the Brighton and Hove Committee Against Fascism.

In the marginal Kemp Town constituency, an enthusiastic campaign is being waged against the Tories and alongside of this is an active anti-fascist campaign with a bold leaflet exposing the fascist NF, warning the trade union movement and working people of this evil and calling for a bold socialist programme and a vote for Labour in the elections.

While locally and nationally, Labour candidates have been asked not to have joint meetings, radio and TV debates with the fascists, [thereby keeping the fascists' propaganda off the air] our local raido came up with a bright idea to get round this problem which has stopped



National Front march in London them covering the election with their usual knife-cutting debates.

They have asked each candidate for a taped interview which they plan to play on the same programme.

Our local candidates refused this offer, because it would mean the same as a joint meeting, and by the time

the editors had cut the tapes, it would be disastrous for the Labour Party. No Labour candidate should have anything to do with these programmes.

The next three weeks will be hectic, but we shall do everything in our power to stop the fascists and to ensure a Labour victory on socialist

policies to stop the reactionary Tories.

By Rod Fitch

(Convenor of Brighton and Hove Committee Against Fascism, Chairman of Kemp Town Labour Party)

SCHOOL STUDENTS MOBILISE

During the Easter holidays, a group of school students in our LPYS used their time to discuss how we could capitalise on the growing interest in politics in the schools and how mock school elections would be run by the LPYS.

First we discussed the problems facing school students and we came to the following conclusions: that even when there were leisure facilities, high entry costs and age limits stopped young people from using them.

Our discussion also brought up many of the points present in 'The Charter for School Students'.

We decided to use this

document as our "election manifesto" in mock elections in schools, a far cry from the weak manifesto presented by Mr Callaghan.

In the conclusions we drew, we discussed the terrifying prospect of the "Iron Maiden" being in power. There would be financial help for gifted children (why not for everyone?) and a return to the grammar school days.

The cuts in education spending would follow the cuts in income tax. Only bold socialist policies will stop Mrs Thatcher's motto of "cut! Cut! Cut!"

Simon Kaplan
(Rother Valley LPYS)

EAGER TO GET INVOLVED

"Can we rely on your vote this year?" You always have before...myself I'm a Marxist, and all for proper socialism".

This was the response of a young electrician we met during canvassing in the Louth constituency.

So far, Young Socialists have been out every night of the week for the last 14 days. 3,000 youth leaflets have been printed.

Almost every night, we are meeting young (and old) people eager to get involved in the fight to keep the Tories

out.

Since the campaign began we have sold over 100 'Militant'. Pub sales in particular have been a success. In just three pubs we sold nearly 25 papers.

Although some Party members are against the sale of 'Militant'—on one occasion a candidate confiscated all papers—we were encouraged and even amazed at the response of most Labour supporters.

Mike Foster
(Louth CLP)

MILITANT PRE-ELECTION MEETINGS

ROTHERHAM Militant Readers' Meeting 'The Menace of Toryism'. Speaker: John Dale (Mansfield Labour Party, candidate in local elections). WEA Rooms (next to Ratcliffe's, the printers), Corporation Street, Rotherham. Monday April 30th 7.30 pm

NOTTINGHAM pre-election meeting. 'Can Labour beat the Tories?' Speaker: Rob Jones (Sheffield-Heeley Labour Party) Sunday April 29th, 7.00 pm, International Community Centre, Mansfield Road, Nottingham

SOUTHAMPTON eve-of-poll 'Militant' meeting. 'Keep the Tories out'. Speaker: Peter Taaffe, Editor of 'Militant'. Wednesday May 2nd. Venue and time to be notified.

REDRUTH, Cornwall Militant Election Meeting. Speakers: Clare Doyle; Dave Hadynay (Senior shop steward, GMWU). Saturday 28th April. 7.30 pm, Redruth Community Centre, Foundry Row, Redruth, Cornwall

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

PRESTON Election Meeting Sunday April 29th, 7.00 pm. Speaker: Pat Wall (Militant Editorial Board). George Hotel, Church Street

CHESTER-LE-STREET Election Meeting. Speaker: Dave Cotterill (Gateshead CLP). Sunday April 29th, 8.00 pm, Chester-le-Street Labour Club, Old Railway Station

NOTTINGHAM 'After the Election—what now?' Speaker: Ted Grant. Tuesday 8th May, 7.30 pm, Portland Hotel, Cartington Street, Nottingham

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.

BRIGHTON Meeting. 'Keep the Tories Out'. Speaker: Ray Apps (Brighton Kempton CLP). Monday April 30th, 8.00 pm, Wagner Hall, Regency Road, off West Street, Brighton

EXETER Militant Election Meeting. Speaker: Clare Doyle. Monday 30th April, 7.30 pm, Labour Club, 26 Clifton Hill, Exeter

BATH Militant Election Meeting. Speaker: Brian Ingham. Monday 30th April, 7.30 pm, Bath Labour and Trades Institute, Green Bank Road, Bath

LIVERPOOL Pre-election meeting. Sunday April 29th 7.30 pm. AUEW Hall, Mount Pleasant. Speakers: Peter Taaffe (Editor 'Militant'), Terry Harrison (Prospective Labour candidate, European elections, Merseyside), Eddie Loyden (Labour candidate, Liverpool Garston), Josie Aitman (LPYS National Committee). Chairman: Tony Mulhearn (Labour candidate, Crosby).

MANCHESTER Meeting 'Keep the Tories Out'. Sunday April 29th, 7.30 pm, Star and Garter, Fairfield Street, Manchester. Speakers: Joe Marino, Bakers' Union EC, and Roger Silverman ('Militant' Editorial Board)

TEESIDE Meeting. Sunday April 29th, 7.30 pm, Cleveland Hotel, Linthorpe Road, Middlesbrough. Speaker to be announced

SPENNYMOOR Meeting Sunday April 29th, 7.30 pm, Steam Mill, Spennymoor

LEEDS Pre-election meeting 'Keep the Tories Out!' Sunday April 29th, 7.30 pm. The Adelphi, Lower Briggate, Leeds. Speaker: Keith Dickinson ('Militant' Editorial Board)

BRENTWOOD Militant Election Meeting. 'The Tory Menace—fight for a socialist victory'. Speaker: Bob Edwards (Harlow Labour Party); Nick Toms (LPYS National Committee). Sunday April 29th, 7.30 pm, Co-op Hall, Kings Road, Brentwood

PLYMOUTH Militant Election Meeting. Speaker: Clare Doyle. 7.30 pm, Sunday 29th April, Virginia House, Palace Street, Bretonside, Plymouth

BRIDGEND. Monday 30th April, 7.30 pm, Dunraven Arms Hotel, Wyndham Street, Bridgend. 'Keep the Tories Out'. Speaker: Kevin Ramage (LPYS National Committee)

ALL LONDON Militant pre-election meeting. Speakers: Sam Maddox (Gen. Sec. Bakers Union); Ted Grant (Militant Editorial Board); David White (Labour Party candidate, Croydon Central); and Bob Lee (Secretary, PNP Youth UK). Sunday April 29th, 6.30 pm, Unity House, Euston Road.

ROCHDALE Meeting. 'Who Runs the Country?' Sunday April 29th, 8.00 pm. Speaker: John Hunt (Ardwick CLP). The Two Ships Hotel, Hope Street, Rochdale

BRADFORD Pre-election rally. 'Keep the Tories Out'. Speaker: John Pickard (Militant Editorial Board). Monday 30th April, 7.30 pm, Communal Building, Bradford University

GLOUCESTER Militant Election Meeting. Speaker: Roger Silverman ('Militant' Editorial Board). New Pilot Inn, Southgate Street, Monday 30th April, 7.30 pm.

What Tory Rule means in Croydon

LITTLE SIBERIA



No hidden tennis courts here

YOUTH AREN'T THE REAL VANDALS

Facilities on the massive estate are diabolical. One café and a couple of chip shops — no restaurant, not even a Wimpy bar! There are two pubs, but they can't serve 30,000 people.

There are 12,000 children on the estate. In the holidays they have nowhere to go, no proper playgrounds — just hundreds of kids playing in the streets.

Even the swimming pool seems to be shut every few months: the foundations keep moving. And can you blame them?

Vandalism is consequently a problem. The Tories rant about "stricter training" and "more law and order." But Frances Rodgers, of Fairchildes Avenue, who has lived on the estate for twenty-six years, summed up the view of most local people:

"There's nothing for young people to do: no bowling alley, no cinema, no nothing. No wonder we see vandalism — there's nothing else for them to do. I'll tell you, there's a lot worse than the youth of New Addington."

New Addington is a massive estate six miles from the town centre, part of the Croydon Central constituency where Labour's candidate, David White, is trying to overturn a Tory majority of 164 in the election on May 3rd.

The Tories also run the local council, and you don't have to live on New Addington long to find out what Tory rule means.

Nick-named "Little Siberia", there can be no doubt that New Addington is the most isolated community in London. There is no rail service for its 30,000 population, and only one road out.

People living in central Croydon have often never been there, unless they have relatives on the

estate; many don't even know where it is.

Looking out of the window of the long bus ride up from the town centre (the only way to get there if you don't have a car), you pass acres of gardens, some more like forests, and salubrious houses scattered with private tennis courts.

Then, as the bus climbs to the top of the hill, the tower blocks of the estate come into view.

There used to be a footpath which ran from the estate to a local 'village' of stockbroker-belt houses. But the thought of workers and their children showing their faces outside the estate was too much — the footpath was closed.



12,000 children — and nowhere to play

Below: Workers aren't made welcome in the village



"I've lived up here a year and never seen a C5"

BUS FARES UP— BUT WHERE ARE THE BUSES?

The bus service from Croydon is bad enough. Bad weather brings it to a halt. And the hill gets the worst of whatever weather is going.

A woman who cleans offices in the town centre told us that in the snow, the buses can't get up the hill. Several times she has been stranded without a bus and had to club together with other cleaning ladies to get a taxi back to the estate. "Money hard earned, blown on taxi fares."

London Transport claim to run a local bus service round the estate. It's been advertised on most of the bus stops. But seeing is believing.

"I've lived up here a

year and never seen a C5 bus," a lady at a bus stop told us. A relative who had lived there a few years "can only remember seeing it once."

Someone believes in it though. A few months ago London Transport announced that the fare on this imaginary route was going up.

So you can understand why one couple consider that, with a small child, they were lucky to get into the doctors down the road. "For many of my neighbours it's a 13p bus ride to see the doctor." And that's if the bus ever arrives.

There is no hospital on the estate; the nearest is miles away.

"IT'S LUCKY WE'RE HANDIMEN"

As far as Tory Croydon Council is concerned, New Addington is 'out of sight and out of mind'.

There is a massive waiting list for repairs or maintenance. John Ship of Headley Drive, explained:

"It's lucky we're a family of handimen. We put in a request to the council for a new loo, as ours was leaking at the base. All the council would do was 'patch it up', but it kept leaking, stinking out the house. We had to put disinfectant on the floor-

boards every week.

"In the end we bought a new loo ourselves. The council came to put it in but would not take the old one away. So it was outside our front door for six months. We finally moved it ourselves. Two weeks later the council came to take it away."

Report and interviews by John Bulaitas
Photos: Julian McKittrick



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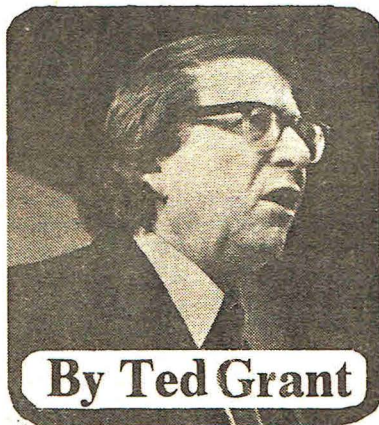
MILITANT'S PROGRAMME

FOR A SOCIALIST PLAN OF PRODUCTION

CAPITALIST CRISIS DEEPENS

The Tories have declared war on the organised working class in their Manifesto. Despite speeches about 'freedom' and all the old smooth talk, the measures they propose are a declaration of class war, a twisted echoing of Heath's Industrial Relations Act.

The cardboard lady Mrs Thatcher has adopted her 'Iron Maiden' pose [reflecting her big business paymasters] to "Cut down" the power of the trade unions and "Restore the balance between the Trade Unions and the Employers".



By Ted Grant

"It won't be shouted from the hustings", says the 'Economist', right wing organ of big business "but Britain needs a swing from wages to profits to help regenerate industry."

Britain's underlying growth rate is now so low that getting higher profits may need a cut—not just slower growth—in real wages". (7/4/79)

That is the background to the Tories' policies, and the media's poisonous campaign against the unions.

The unions are the shield of the organised working class, protecting rights, conditions and living standards.

Through pressure to defend and improve the social wage; pensions, hospital services, housing, social services and transport, they fight for the interests of all workers.

All the rights of working people including the right to vote, organise and strike; free

speech and free press were won by struggles of the labour movement.

The real Tory programme is one of holding down wages; allowing prices to rise; and further slashing government spending. The CBI has called for another £6,000 million cut.

In five years, arms expenditure has increased from £3,600 million to £8,500 million.

This programme is bitter class war. The Tories want to deepen the present gulf between the health, housing, and other amenities of the capitalists and those of the workers. Private health schemes encouraged; subsidies

for private schools. All out of the reach of workers, who must suffer cuts in already inadequate services.

Pennies from income tax concessions to low income families will be more than cancelled by increased food prices through increasing VAT on necessities such as furniture. But cuts in tax will mean that 'at a stroke' the weekly income of top directors and managers will rise by more than the average industrial worker earns in 6 months.

Meanwhile, arms expenditure will rise. British capitalism is obsessed with 'arms', with spending more than doubled in five years, at a time when their Japanese rivals spend less than 1% of GNP on 'defence'.

The Japanese ruling class have ploughed back the surplus extracted from the

labour of the working class into industry, one of the reasons for their out-stripping all their capitalist rivals except for the United States.

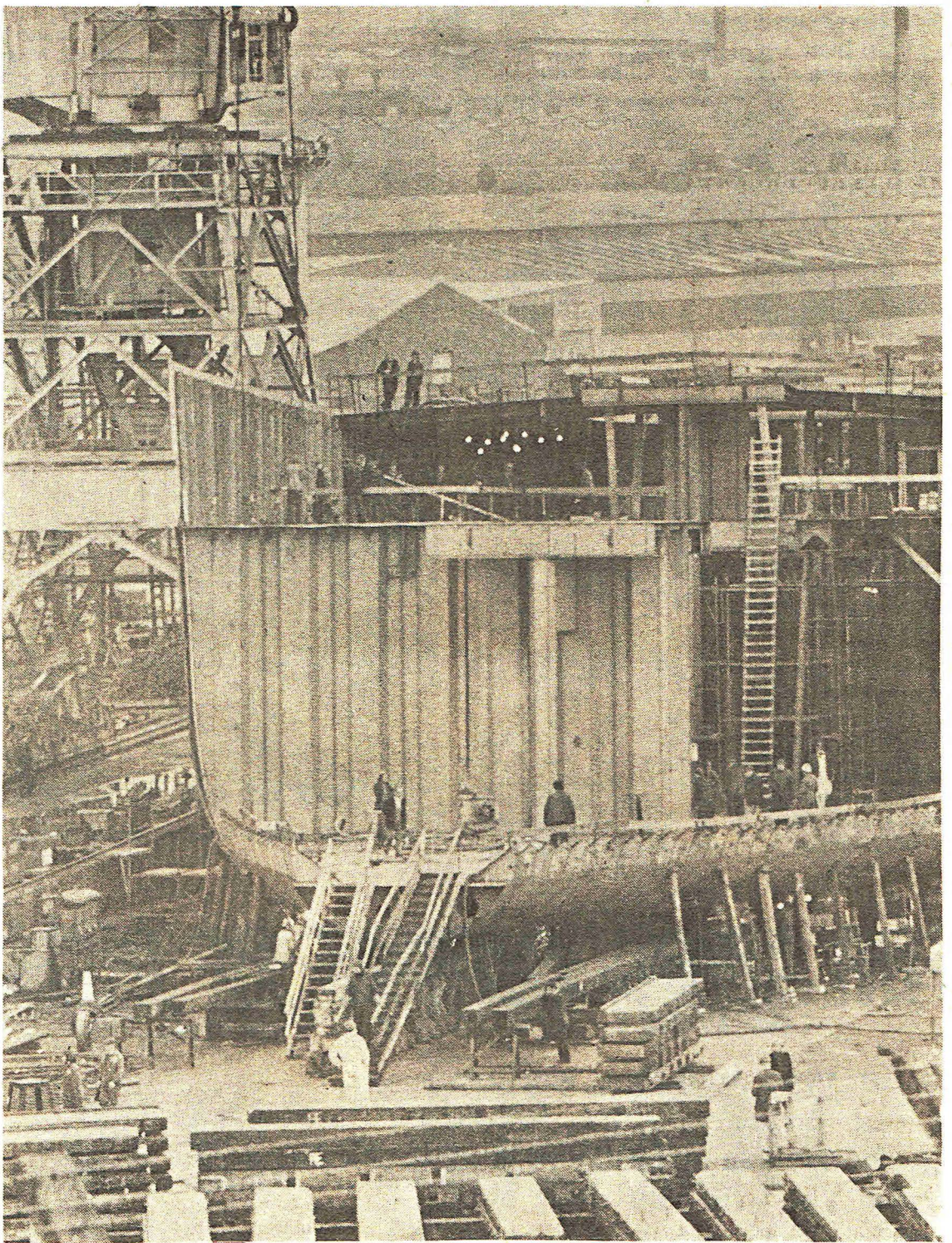
Without a powerful industrial base, armaments do not increase the military strength of a country. Quite the reverse. Yet the Tories, and unfortunately under pressure, the Labour leaders too, have increased the production of what amounts to scrap metal; rapidly obsolescent arms.

This will neither frighten the Russian bureaucracy (who treat British capitalism with open contempt) nor assist the standing of capitalist Britain with her allies.

Why then this crazy stock-piling? Merely a frenetic attempt to restore the long gone power of the pre-war days when Britain was second only to the USA as a world force. But now Britain is regarded as a poor country by her rivals: twentieth in the

league of industrialised nations. "Defence" and "law and order" would be the only exceptions to Tory cuts.

But the Tories' determination to drive down workers' living standards and to increase big business profits is not a personal whim of Thatcher and Joseph. It is caused by the economic crisis of British capitalism which has polarised class society into two fundamental camps, the workers and the capital-



SOCIALIST POLICIES THE ONLY WAY OUT

WIPE OUT UNEMPLOYMENT

35 - HOUR WEEK NOW!

A national programme of work-sharing is vital, if Britain is to end the scandal of 1½ million people on the dole.

Unemployment figures have remained at over one million since 1975 and have steadily climbed to their highest levels since the 1930s.

Between 1976 and 1978, over one million jobs were lost in the factories. If in a mini-boom factories are shedding labour, what are the prospects offered by capitalism in the expected world recession at the end of this year? The workers of Kirkby, Speke, Corby, Falmouth, Sunderland and Wrexham, of dozens of working class communities, have already been told. Their towns are to be murdered, like Longwy and Denain in France, like Jarrow in the 1930s.

Huge factories, steel mills, shipyards and mines will be closed, men left idle and shops empty. The Department of Industry predicts that 2½ million will be unemployed in the next four years—if capitalism continues.

This is the meaning of Thatcher's 'Better Value for Money' slogan—more profits with less labour. The alarm has been sounded. The right to work, the most fundamental right in capitalist society, faces its most serious threat in almost half a century.

By
Phil Frampton
(LPYS National
Chairman)

Workers are to be made unemployed because the capitalists declare that there is not enough work to go round. If this is the case then a shorter working week should be introduced immediately as an elementary measure for defence of the working class.

A bill for the implementation of the 35-hour week as advocated by the TUC should be introduced into Parliament. But the experience of the Equal Pay Act and all such parliamentary statutes would threaten the employers, indicate that such a bill will only become reality when employers are confronted with a trade union movement ready to secure its implementation in the workplace.

With great magnanimity the Confederation of British Industry have suggested that a 35-hour week might be on offer if the workers accept lower wages. The same old Hobson's Choice—unemployment or wage cuts. But low wages are precisely the reason why British workers labour for longer hours than almost any of their brothers and

sisters in Europe!

The 35-hour week must be introduced without loss of pay. This policy would mean the creation of one million jobs, an increase in the workers' time for leisure, education, etc., and would end that cancerous lingering fear of redundancy.

The Labour manifesto is a retreat from the original decision by the Executive to include the demand for the 35-hour week. Instead it says,

"A progressive move to the 35-hour working week must play an increasing role during the 1980s" if full employment is to be achieved.

This is accepting the CBI objections that they "cannot afford it". The rich say they cannot afford to give men a living, to train up more workers in the necessary skills, to stop doctors, nurses, firemen, bakers and railwaymen from being overworked.

If that is the case, then it is

their bankrupt system that we cannot afford. The lesson of the last five years is stark: if the workers' leaders attempt to bail out the bankrupt capitalists then they will lead the working class back to the nightmare of the thirties.

The combined forces of the trade union and labour movement have the power to teach the capitalists what they can afford. The employers could not afford to give the local authority workers more

than 5% until the men took action, neither could they afford to pay the firemen or Ford workers.

They say that if you want the 35-hour week you cannot have capitalism. We say give us the 35-hour week but to keep it, we will need a socialist planned economy in which the workers can decide what we can or can't afford.



Dunlop workers at Speke in a grim fight for their jobs, threatened by capitalism

Photo: MILITANT

FOR A PROGRAMME OF PUBLIC WORKS

One in nine building workers are out on the stones, along with thousands of teachers and nurses. Yet who can deny that there is a crying need for more homes, schools and hospitals?

Housing is a nightmare for working people—and it is getting worse. More than one million households are on council waiting lists, and 700,000 live in homes unfit for human habitation. Some 950,000 are in houses lacking either a bath, hot water or an inside toilet.

There are 1 million people in Britain who have been classified as homeless. In England last year 50,000 became homeless.

The reasons for homelessness given by Shelter, the housing organisation, present a picture of terrible overcrowding, resulting in whole families being turned

out onto the street.

Yet it is the areas with the worst housing problems which also have the highest percentage of unemployed building workers! On Merseyside, for example, 23.1% of building workers are unemployed. Idle hands and unused resources.

A crash programme of public works would eliminate unemployment and eradicate the blight of homelessness and bad housing. It would be possible to build new schools and hospitals, and utilise all the unemployed teachers and

nurses.

But the Tories and capitalists are hell bent on moving in the opposite direction. Thatcher has reluctantly conceded that she may allow the paying of any "comparability" award to local government workers if she comes to power—but it will be paid for by the elimination of thousands of jobs. Ruthless "cash limits" for the public sector is the Tories' plan.

Unfortunately the ground has been prepared for these Tory measures over the past three years by measures of the Labour cabinet, which bowed to pressure from the capitalists.

Deterioration

The consequences can be seen in the rapid deterioration of all aspects of life.

Take spending on transport. In some big cities, like London, the savage cuts and fare increases inflicted on bus services by the Tories means more people forced to use cars, bigger traffic jams and a general deterioration in the lives of Londoners. Mean-

while the building, and—as important—the maintenance of roads has been cut back.

In education the drop in the school population, particularly in some inner city areas, has not been utilised to cut back on class sizes, providing the opportunity to raise educational standards particularly for working class children. On the contrary, an increased load has come on teachers who are estimated to work about 43 hours a week on average.

The proportion of public expenditure spending on education has been cut from 6.3% to 5.6% from 1975 to 1977 and on the NHS from 5% to 4.8%.

The labour movement must fight against this erosion of the conditions of the working class. Capitalism has been shown to be incapable of solving these problems.

A crash programme of public works must be launched. The specific targets for such a programme should be worked out with the talents and experience of the unions in the health service, the building industry and education drawn on.

One million houses a year.

The building of sufficient schools employing enough teachers to provide class sizes of no more than 25 will form part of this programme.

At the same time resuming, as state enterprises under workers' control and management, factories and industries closed down by the capitalists.

Linked to the idea of a socialist planned economy, such a programme would gather the support of the unemployed and those workers deprived of decent housing, education for their children and health treatment and care.

Photo: (right) Corby workers suffer from control of British Steel by capitalists and Tories like Villiers



Photo: J McKittrick (MILITANT)

FOR A £70 MINIMUM WAGE

"At times last winter society seemed on the brink of disintegration." So says the Tory Manifesto.

Maybe the society Thatcher supports would disintegrate if the millions of low paid received a decent deal for their labours.

For what happened last winter was that the low paid, new to trade unionism, certainly new to industrial action struck, even against the Labour government they had voted in, for a living wage.

The Bakers were involved in a bitter struggle for just over £50; lorry drivers for a weekly basic of only £65. While the civil servants who have just won a staged pay award, complained that their worst-off members were entitled to the very benefits they paid out.

But the dispute which attracted most attention from the 'poison pen' Tory press, was the battle of the public sector workers. How dare hospital porters, street

cleaners and school dinner ladies stand up for themselves and demand a fair deal. But no-one, except a Tory, could say that these workers were out for more than the barest, minimum wage.

Somehow 4 million workers try to exist on a wage of less than £50 per week. And that's before stoppages. The government's Family Expenditure Survey estimated that 2,280,000 people survive in households on less than the official supplementary benefit level—in plain terms, below the poverty line.

Underestimate

This jumps to 6,370,000 when those actually claiming supplementary benefit are included. But the Low Pay Unit considers even those horrific figures to be a gross underestimate.

A genuine guide to how many suffer the indignity of poverty would have to include everyone on up to 40% above the supplementary benefit level. Total—14,870,000—a quarter of the population.



Nurses and other public sector workers still need £70 minimum wage

Photo: Laurence Sparham (IFL)

That's why 'Militant' stands at the forefront of the campaign for a national minimum wage. There is no other solution.

Many low paid workers supported the Social Contract initially. But it has made things worse, not better. Only profits ever gain from holding down wages. The low paid are invariably tightly clasped in the poverty trap. So what they gain from small increases in wages they lose in benefits.

According to the Labour government's figures in the first two years of the Contract the number relying on wages

below the supplementary benefit level rose by 147%.

There was an even steeper rise in those living on a wage below what the wage earner would have received on the dole. It rocketed up by 307%.

There must be an end to wage restraint, to allow workers, low paid and better paid, to recoup what they have lost under the Social Contract. Over the last fifteen years wage controls have been the norm, but poverty has become more entrenched. So how can it be that the low paid benefit when other workers are held back?

But it is true that by itself free collective bargaining also would not necessarily eradicate low pay. That's precisely why 'Militant' stands for a minimum wage. A realistic figure would have to be at least £70 per week.

After all, the TUC called for a £30 minimum wage five years ago. We need £70 for every low paid worker, for the nurses, for the 22% of hospital ancillaries who earn less than £46; for the 26% of male workers under 25 who in 1977 were earning under £40.

We need £70 for the unemployed, the sick and the

pensioners—870,000 of whom live below the supplementary benefit level.

'Militant' fights for the TUC and particularly for the next Labour government to stand for a socialist wages policy based on:—an end to wage restraint; a national minimum wage of £70 per week, tied to the cost of living.

By Jeremy Birch

(Selly Oak Labour Party)

NATIONALISATION AND WORKERS MANAGEMENT

Sweeping de-nationalisation of the most lucrative parts of the nationalised industry. This is the threat of the Tory Party.

Should they win the election, they promise to hive off profitable sections such as the Rover-Triumph-Jaguar part of British Leyland, the National Freight Corporation, and the telecommunications activities of the Post Office.

The capitalists have long cast a parasitic eye over these industries—and now, having greased the Tory election machine lavishly—they look forward to their reward.

In order to prepare the way for this legalised robbery, the Tories throw scorn on the record of the nationalised industries. In the process by equating a socialist planned economy with the way present

nationalised industries are run—they hope to ridicule the ideas of socialism.

The Tories even claim that state industries are more inefficient and wasteful than private capitalist industry, which they portray as an economic dynamo, only held back by 'government interference'. In fact, without the crutch of government in the form of generous grants, loans, help with research and tax relief, the vast majority of these capitalist firms would cave in.

Where nationalised industries are near bankruptcy it is the capitalists themselves who bear responsibility. They with-held investment from British Leyland, the steel industry, railways and the coal industry before they were taken out of their hands.

They then demanded massive compensation with colossal interest still being repaid. Not satisfied with this,

British capitalists squeeze out of nationalised industries the cheapest gas, electricity and rail freight transportation of any major capitalist country.

The state industries are not models of socialism, but modelled on private industry. In fact their boards have become dominated by avowed enemies of socialism. Most directors are capitalists, some even on the boards of the companies with which they are supposed to be competing. A few token trade union leaders may be brought on.

But the aspirations of the working class to be fully involved are denied. That is why mis-management and bureaucracy are rife.

In the Post Office 'workers directors' nominated by the Post Office unions are now given a minority of seats on the Post Office board. But this scheme is merely an attempt to embroil the Post Office unions in a decision-

making process over which they have no control.

'Militant' has argued for boards of nationalised industries to be made up overwhelmingly of trade unionists; one third elected by the workers in the industry, through their unions; one third elected through the TUC to represent the working class as a whole; one third to be appointed by the government.

Representatives of the trade union movement on these boards should be subject to regular elections, and receive no more than the average wage of a skilled worker.

Then nationalised industries would become mighty weapons in the hands of the working class. Workers on the boards would use their positions to fight for reforms for workers in the industry and could tear the veil of secrecy shrouding business activities, exposing racketeering, price fixing and fiddling

by capitalists at the expense of the nationalised industries.

Monopolies

They would then make an unanswerable case for extending nationalisation to profitable capitalist industries.

Real workers' management of state industries would provide the starting point for nationalisation of the top 200 monopolies and the inauguration of a socialist plan of production throughout the economy under the democratic control and management of the working class.

By Brian Ingham

('Militant' Industrial Editor)



ists.

It is false for the right wing social-democrats or even Tribunites to weep at the 'unfair' attitudes of the Tories. Their programme is dictated by the economic impasse of capitalism. The failure of Keynesianism leading to inflation has led to attempts to return to orthodox methods of deflation of the past. Neither will help workers.

But to carry out such a policy the Tories have to weaken workers' resistance and try to undermine their defence—the unions. Even after the experience of the Heath government the capitalists need to return to economic and social confrontation. On the road of capitalism there is no alternative.

In 1979 in Britain, only one worker in three is employed in manufacturing industry. Sir Adrian Cadbury, the chocolate boss has projected that it will shortly be one in five. In the last fifteen years 1½ million manufacturing jobs have been lost in Britain.

But the number employed in West Germany, France, Japan and Italy has increased by more than a million over the last ten years. That process has begun to seize up in those countries too as a consequence of the organic crisis of world capitalism. But within this world crisis is the special crisis of British capitalism.

In the past the only argument for capitalism was that in their greed for gain, capitalist re-investment in industry increased the wealth of society. But in Britain the capitalists invest in unproductive money-spinners like land.

The failure to invest in the production of real wealth, i.e. manufacturing industry, and in particular machinery and equipment for production means that Britain is falling further and further behind her rivals. Despite higher subsidies which pay for half of all manufacturing investment it is increasing at a snails pace.

The capitalists invest in land, property speculation, tourism, stock exchange speculation, advertising, service industries, casinos, horse racing, antiques, painting and jewellery, anything but in manufacturing industry.

In 1976 they invested over £2,000 million abroad. Now the City of London wants Mrs Thatcher to open the flood-gates by abolishing the dollar premium on investment abroad.

So, despite the sacrifices of the last five years the working class in Britain has the lowest wages of any capitalist industrialised country. Only by exploiting cheap labour can British capitalists compete in world markets; but in today's world, cheap labour is not enough.

In productivity of steel Britain has been outclassed. Now, due to massive investment, Japan produces 45 cars in the time it takes workers in British factories to produce 7. Of all the radios sold in Britain, a mere 4% are made in this country,—and exports are negligible!

Britain 20 years ago had 98% of the world market of motor bikes. They now have 2% of the British market! Half of the cars, televisions, fridges, vacuum cleaners and washing machines sold in Britain are imported. 25% of all manufactured and even more semi-manufactured goods are imports.

And British manufacturers' share of markets at home and

NATIONALISE THE 200 MONOPOLIES UNDER WORKERS CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT

abroad continues to fall. Denis Healey has pointed out that "in 1979 manufacturing will be unable to stand up sufficiently to competition either in home or export markets." The Treasury forecast greater import penetration and a deterioration in the volume of trade in manufactured goods. Healey has also estimated that manufacturing exports would rise by only 7% while imports rose 14%.

In the vital sphere of machine tools, British capitalism is also losing ground. Imports of agricultural machinery (expensive sophisticated technical equipment) has risen 197% in ten years. Exports have grown by only 31%. Investment in the machine tool industry has fallen sharply in real terms since 1970, particularly in new building.

In 1970 £18.6m of plant and machinery was manufactured; by 1977, this had declined to £17m. The amount of new building collapsed from £5.2m to £2.2m (all at constant 1975 prices).

British capitalism is being defeated on both home and international markets because of failure to invest in manufacturing industry. There is a contradiction between finance and industrial capital. Service industries are more profitable.

The 'Economist' again points out "without a revival in profitability, why should the average British company invest more? In 1976, it was making 16.8% on capital measured at historic costs, compared with the 15% it could have got simply by depositing cash risk-free with local authorities."

Interest rates are so high that it does not pay the capitalists to invest in machinery. They produce not for need, but for profit. The contradictions of capitalism have so developed in Britain that the essentials have been forgotten—real wealth is manufacturing wealth.

Counter-reforms

Reforms promised by Labour, which we support, could not be carried out on a capitalist basis. Capitalism must press for counter-reforms: wage cuts and slashed services, i.e. the Tory programme. At this moment big business do not want a Labour government.

This crisis poses a nightmare future for the real producers of wealth, the working class. Britain remains potentially an enormously wealthy country, but only if the resources of society are taken over by the working class.

The nationalisation of the banks and insurance companies and the 200 monopolies controlling 85% of the wealth of the country (with

minimum compensations on the basis of need) is indispensable to release productive forces from the fetters which bind them.

Within a few years Britain's factories could be completely re-equipped. At most a 35-hour week would be worked, while

The new techniques of computers and micro-electronics would make this entirely possible. Under capitalism, though, they would

mostly carried out now by working housewives." "The typist, secretary, lower white collar management man will become redundant," he says confidently ('Daily Express', 8.12.78).

Professor Stonier of Bradford University predicts that 90% of manufacturing jobs will be abolished by the silicon chip in 30 years. "10% of the population will provide all the material things we need," predicts the professor.

New technology will mean unemployment under capitalism, but leisure and plenty with a planned economy.

"The basic week will be four days of 5 hours a day, and people will be moving back into the education system for the whole of their lives."

This would be impossible under capitalism. But in a democratic socialist Britain, it could be achieved in 3, not 30 years.

Such a state would be a beacon to workers of Europe and the world. A socialist appeal by British workers would be followed by the collapse of capitalism in Western Europe and the fall of Stalinism in Eastern Europe. Internationalist policies and a socialist United States of Europe and the world would lead to the scrapping of the lunacy of arms production.

£1,000,000,000,000 is wasted throughout the world every four years on arms. The greater part of the world's scientific resources is spent on preparing ever more devilish instruments of destruction. Used constructively, all these resources could abolish poverty and disease, racialism and war. It would mean the complete transformation of mankind.



The capitalist class press for counter-reforms—like the slashing of services. The slums, they say, must remain.

Planning production would mean the maximum production of goods to benefit working people, and the absorbing of the unemployed into productive work. The £4,000m paid out in dole could be used for social purposes. Used in productive industry the unemployed could produce £20,000m extra wealth. £20 a week for every family!

Only about 80% of productive capacity is now in use—because of the limits of the market. 20% more goods could be produced by this alone with a socialist plan of production. In addition a democratic plan of production would entail workers' control of management of industry and the state.

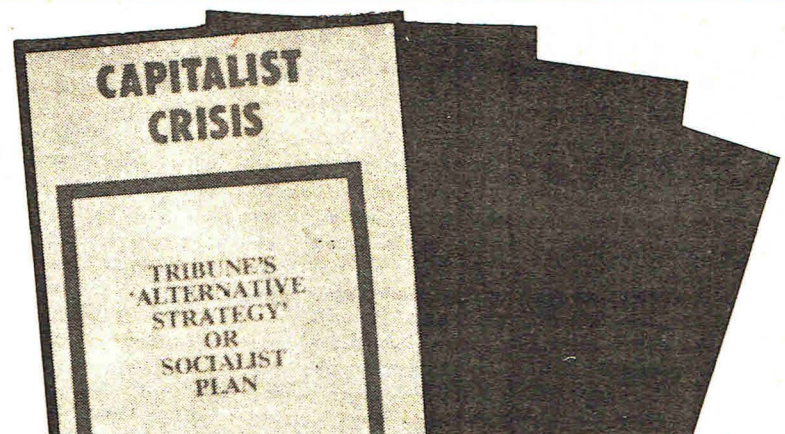
Without the fear of redundancy if they produced more, the workers would respond with invention, initiative, élan and enthusiasm. A growth rate of 20% a year would be possible.

A socialist Britain could begin with at least £70 a week for every family, including pensioners, widows and the sick. Skill and technique would be used to the maxi-

rapidly a 4- or 5-hour day with a 4-day week could be introduced. This would allow the involvement of the whole population in politics, and give the working class the necessary time to run industry and the state.

merely put further millions out of work.

Professor Curnow of Sussex University predicts that on introduction of micro-computers, "The first jobs to go will be in the office and light assembly work in factories,

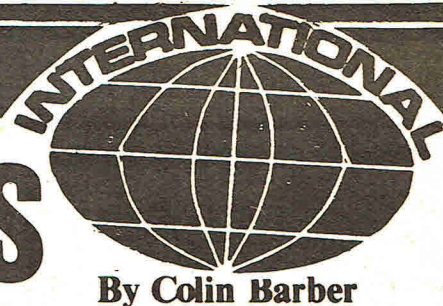


Britain's economic crisis is fully analysed in 'Capitalist Crisis: Tribune's "Alternative Strategy" or Socialist Plan' by Andrew Glyn

Price: 60p + 10p post and packing, from Militant, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

RHODESIA

ELECTORAL FARCE SHARPENS CLASS DIVISIONS



By Colin Barber

The elections in Rhodesia and the recent Rhodesian raids into Zambia, Angola and Mozambique mark a new stage in the class polarisation in the area.

On the one side are the black middle-class leaders like Muzorewa and Sithole siding with the continuation of economic and political oppression of the Africans.

On the other, the demands of the ZANU and [to a lesser extent] ZAPU guerrilla movements for an end to all forms of capitalist exploitation.

In themselves the recent elections achieve nothing, except an opportunity for some imperialist countries to give more open support to the Rhodesian regime.

The elections are a fraud.

They are not 'one man, one vote'. Whites have two votes, firstly for white-only parties, and secondly for black parties.

Although they are only 4% of the population, whites will retain 28% of the seats. The Cabinet will have to represent all the parties in the Parliament, so whites will have at least a quarter of Ministerial posts.

And even that Cabinet will not control the key institutions of the police and security forces. They will remain in white hands.

In rural areas the 'Guardian' reported (18 April) that the black labour force on white-owned farms were voting "mainly at the request of their employers".

Martial law gives the 'security forces' total freedom to operate in 90% of the country. This allows the vicious thugs of the Selous Scouts and the foreign mercenaries (who now comprise over a third of the regular army) a free hand to terrorise the population.

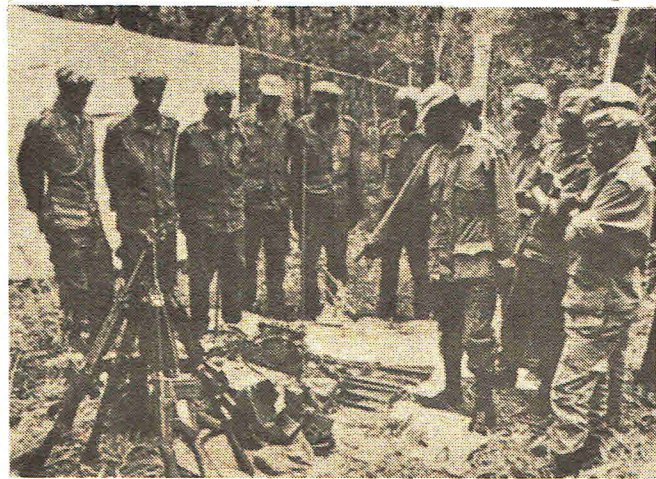
Why then has the ruling class in Rhodesia gone through the whole farce of elections?

It is firstly a response to the growing success of the ZANU and ZAPU liberation movements. ZANU now effectively operates in over 75% of the country and has reflected the desire of the African population for fundamental change.

The conduct of the elections has been marked by widespread intimidation from the Rhodesian authorities.

The 'Financial Times' (18 April) noted that: "During the five days set aside for polling, mobile booths will tour factories gathering in the black industrial vote. All of which amounts to significant pressure on those blacks in the wage economy".

In other words, no vote, no job. An important threat in an economy where unemployment is increasing by over 1,000 every month.



Liberation Movement with captured weapons

Mugabe, leader of ZANU has recognised the pressure of the liberation fighters and declared that "We should concentrate on policies aimed at the transformation of society".

ZANU has proclaimed itself to be 'Marxist-Leninist' and called for the nationalisation of the land and the main pillars of the economy.

There has been a division between the local ruling-class and Western imperialism over the tactics to be pursued to counter this growing threat.

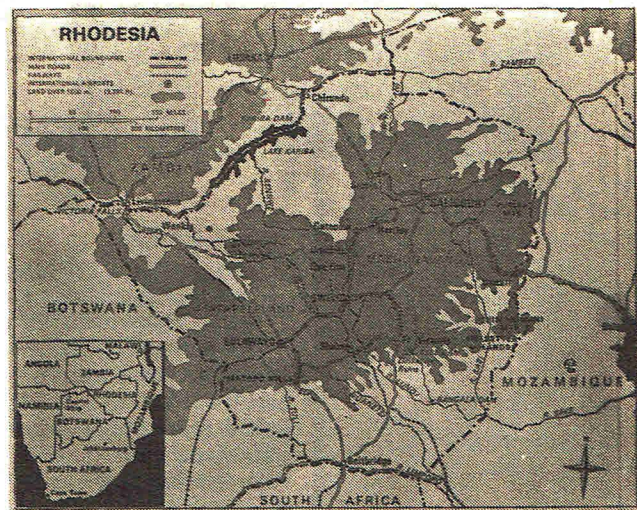
The local ruling-class want to instal black puppets in office, but not allow them to make any real changes in the social structure. This is coupled with a ruthless escalation of the war against ZANU and ZAPU.

So in recent weeks the Rhodesian army has raided Angola and Zambia, murdering hundreds. It has also, in less publicised moves, raided Mozambique and blown up a fuel depot in Beira, aiding a bogus opposition movement 'the Mozambique National Resistance Army'.

South Africa is now apparently about to give total support to a 'black' Rhodesian regime.

The influential Africans paper 'Beeld' last week stated official South African government thinking as: "Self-interest prescribes that we offer the hand of friendship in a more open and official manner than we have supported and sustained Rhodesia since its UDI in 1965."

The South African regime want to revive the idea of a South African Common Market based on the economic



and military might of South Africa.

Whilst some right-wing Tories in Britain and the US have backed this approach, the main strategists of Western imperialist interests in the area have advised caution.

They do not believe that South Africa would be able to stay in Rhodesia for ever, and that their intervention would sharpen the polarisation in that country.

In an interview given to the 'Guardian' (18 April) David Owen reflected this view, warning South Africa that they would have to withdraw from both Rhodesia and Namibia and by then they would have created "very fierce enemies" in those countries.

The alternative which Western imperialism poses to the tactics of all-out opposition to ZANU and ZAPU is simple.

It is to involve the liberation movements or elements of them in negotiations—to patch up a compromise with the puppet black leaders and defuse the situation. The

West recognised that there will have to be some kind of social change, but wish to avoid any threat to their interests in the country or in Southern Africa as a whole.

So they propose a conference of all parties, ostensibly to bring peace, but in reality to try to put an end to the growing radicalisation of the struggle.

But neither way now offers Western capitalism a safe future.

Repression by a South African backed Muzorewa government would only intensify the struggle. A negotiated deal is not on the cards, and would only result in a split in the liberation movements and a further move to the left.

The struggle is not yet over, but the movements can now see how near they are to the end of racist rule in Rhodesia. And a victory over capitalism would shake the whole foundations of oppression in the sub-continent.

IRAN - Challenge to Khomeini

The polarisation of Iranian society continues.

As pressure grows for a visible improvement in people's lives after the Shah's overthrow, some of the religious and political leaders have responded.

Last week the liberal capitalist Foreign Minister, Sanjabi resigned and announced he would be prepared to stand for President in any forthcoming election.

In Tehran 20,000 people demonstrated in protest against the arrest of two sons and a daughter-in-law of the popular local religious leader Ayatollah Tegehani.

It is rumoured that those arrested were members of the Fedayeen guerrilla group.

The rally in their support was organised by the newly-formed National Democratic Front in opposition to fundamentalist Islamic Committees.

The most important development recently has been the beginnings of the emergence of Iranian workers as a separate political entity.

By
our correspondent

Employed and unemployed workers have taken to the streets in mass demonstrations demanding work, and calling on the government to tackle their grievances.

Mass unemployment coupled to the working class's growing sense of its own strength has led to the development of the mass demonstrations.

Khomeini's Central Revolutionary Islamic Committee has proved incapable of putting forward any programme for the economy as a whole except for some concessions to the working class. (like the recent promises of free medical treatment).

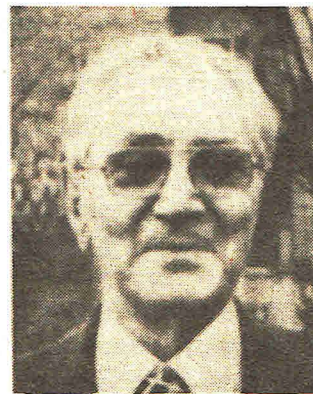
Khomeini has threatened shopkeepers that they will be punished under Islamic law if they do not hold down prices, but it is completely utopian to believe that measures of this kind can control inflation.

The inability of Khomeini to provide a solution to the problems which Iranian workers face is already undermining his support.

This has also been reflected in recent small moves by the leaders of the Tudeh (Iran's 'Communist' Party), to distance themselves from Khomeini.

Neureddin Kianouri, the Tudeh's new General Secretary, has just announced that the Tudeh is now calling for a united front ranging from "the left of the Ayatollah Khomeini to the Tudeh", a change from their call of two months ago for a front which would "combine the strength of the supporters of Khomeini, of the Tudeh and other revolutionary parties."

Khomeini has attempted to retain his grip on events in two ways. Firstly there has been the resumption of the trials and executions of



Sanjabi resigned as Foreign Minister

officials of the old regime in order to offer the masses some proof of action. There is no doubt that the shooting of the leaders and torturers of the Shah's military dictatorship is popular with the Iranian masses who suffered under its iron heel of repression for decades.

It is absolutely hypocritical of the Western leaders to denounce these trials when they were fully prepared to support the Shah's regime and turned a blind eye to the killings and torture which went on under it.

But at the same time, the manner of these trials, held in semi-secret before local priests, must be seen as a further attempt to consolidate Khomeini's position and are a dangerous precedent which could be used against the left later.

While using these trials to

attempt to rally support, Khomeini is also attempting to increase the pressure on the left and stop the spread of socialist ideas. At the beginning of April, for instance, a demonstration of 10,000 which was held in Qom (the religious centre where Khomeini lives) denounced the Fedayeen as "traitors to Islam and the revolution".

In Isfahan a student was killed when some of Khomeini's militia, the Revolutionary Islamic Guards, opened fire on an unemployed demonstration.

The development of these workers demonstrations and the increasing boldness of their demands represents the beginnings of the appearance of the working class, as an organised independent force, in the Iranian revolution. The Iranian working class through its mass demonstrations, three month general strike and the February insurrection toppled the Shah's regime, but in the absence of a clear

leadership it was unable to organise the power which it held in its hands.

This was the reason that Bazargan and Khomeini were able to attempt to establish themselves in office without any real opposition.

But now, as a result of their experiences, the working class is taking the first steps towards building a labour movement.

The Iranian workers have demonstrated their willingness and ability to struggle, but what is required now more than ever is an independent workers' party which would be capable of linking together the isolated struggles which are now breaking out into a general movement for the working class to take power.

Only on the basis of the working class coming to power in Iran and carrying through the socialist transformation of society can all the problems facing the Iranian people realistically be solved.

'Militant' pamphlet

THE IRANIAN REVOLUTION

REPRINTS OF ARTICLES FROM 'MILITANT'.

A MARXIST ANALYSIS OF THE DEVELOPMENTS IN IRAN.

Price 10p (plus 5p post and packing). Order from World Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

A landslide for Labour

Dear Comrades
 "Why should I vote Labour, when have they done anything for me?". That was how a low-paid worker I canvassed on the door-step reacted.
 As a Council worker the recent pay negotiations have meant an extra 50p in his wage packet. He had been a Labour voter all his life-but would not be voting in this election and despite a long conversation, I could not get him to change his mind.
 Others, reluctant because of the government's record, would be turning out to keep Thatcher out.
 On Monday night four of us canvassed a street of 122 houses. Only two people said they would be voting Tory, all the others were going to vote Labour. Not one had much to say for Callaghan, but all of them realised what a Tory government would mean to the working class.
 What a landslide victory Labour would win if they fought on the ideas of the 'Militant', instead of trying to prop up the bosses and their system.
 Yours fraternally
 Jeff Price
 Vice Chairman, Newcastle North CLP

Send your views and comments on the issues that affect you to 'Militant', 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

Not much comfort here for Tories

Dear Comrade
 Last week I displayed the poster 'When did the Tories ever work?' with 'Vote Labour' inked in as the slogan.
 The house I live in faces a busy village shop and the poster is easily read. The reaction amazed me: I was stopped and asked numerous times if one could be obtained.
 A lad had noticed it in passing and had wanted to call in for one but was very shy. On his estate he was surrounded by Tories and he was sick of their catty remarks etc. He felt that the poster would make them catch their breath!
 Many housewives visit the shop and their hate of Thatcher is obvious. "We're all Labour around here pet", "That's a good poster, did you put it up?"
 This is their line of conversation, good for an opening, and then down to the 'nitty gritty' of prices etc.
 They all agree the Tories have always treated them like slaves and no way did they ever want a Tory government. Two of the ladies that day took away posters

and their closing comments: "That might stop the sods [Tories] knocking at wor doors!"
 The village has a large number of retired pitmen, many of whom frequently relate their bitter struggles against the Tories over the decades.
 One old chap stopped to give me some gardening hints and eventually conversation came round to the poster. A man of 88, nearly blind, he shook with emotion as he told me about the Tory *****s grinding the working class underfoot.
 "Never," he said, "have the Tories even tried to treat the working class as people. They see us as a style of ready-made workhorses to turn out their profits."
 Canvassing will be a lot easier in the village: 'When did the Tories ever work?' posters hanging in a canny few windows and good people behind them ready to vote Labour into power on a socialist programme.
 Fraternally yours
 Susan Stothard
 Durham CLP

Trade unionists warn of jobs threat

Dear Comrade
 Enclosed is a copy of the material that NALGO Labour Party members in Glasgow are circulating, through the Social Work Shop Stewards Committee, concerning the election:
CAMPAIGN FOR NALGO AFFILIATION TO THE LABOUR PARTY
 Dear Colleague
 We strongly believe that the election of a Tory government would have disastrous consequences for the working people of Britain. The performance of the Tories since they took over Greater London Council is a harsh warning of what a return to the Tories would mean—they have promised 10,000 redundancies before 1983 through strict control of public expenditure.
 The Tory election manifesto is a profit-boosting extravaganza which promises to deliver higher profits to big business at the expense of the working class in reduced wages, social services and lengthening of dole queues.
 We urge you not only to vote Labour but to join us in the fight for a Labour government pledged to im-

plement socialist policies. Only a socialist plan of production based on the nationalisation of the commanding heights of the economy, under workers' control, can solve the problems facing the workers of Britain today.
 Yours fraternally
 Bob Wylie
 NALGO

Punishment or reward?

Dear Comrades
 Remember Matthew Paris, who embarrassed Mrs Thatcher by writing a somewhat blunt letter to a council house tenant telling her how lucky she was?
 According to the 'Telegraph' (10/4/79), this "bright young man" far from being chastised, has the plum job of defending a Tory majority of 7,846 at West Derbyshire.
 If that is the way Tories are 'punished' for making blunders I'm not surprised they make so many.
 Fraternally
 John Severs
 Stafford LPYS



May Day Greetings

SUSSEX NFC LORRY DRIVERS SEND GREETING TO ALL TRADE UNIONISTS
 Keep the Tories out!
 Save the nationalised transport industry
 Let transport serve the people
FROM SUSSEX NFC SHOP STEWARDS' COMMITTEE

PETER TEBBUTT, PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATE, FALMOUTH & CAMBORNE
 sends socialist greetings to all readers

BAKERS, FOOD & ALLIED WORKERS' UNION



MAY DAY GREETINGS TO ALL SOCIALISTS Together we will build a better Britain

Gen. Sec. Sam Maddox

Nat. Pres. T O'Neill

Vonk—Belgian Marxist paper sends fraternal greetings!
 Kroonlaan 370, 1050 Brussels, Belgium

Chester LPYS sends warm greetings to the labour movement
 Fight for the ideas of 'Militant'!

Rochdale Militant Supporters send May Day greetings to all in the labour movement

Isle of Wight LPYS **KEEP OUT THE TORY NIGHTMARE FIGHT FOR A LABOUR GOVERNMENT**

YARDLEY [Birmingham] LPYS
 Keep out the Tories
 Build the LPYS
 Fraternal greetings to all workers

Ladywood LPYS **BLACK & WHITE UNITY TO END CAPITALISM. WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE**

Harlow Trades Union Council

MAY DAY GREETINGS!
 TU and Labour Festival, May 7th:
 Playhouse, films, theatre, folk, food,
 real ale, jazz, crèche, cartoons
 details: Harlow 31656

Royton & Wardle Women's Section
 send May Day greetings
 Free nursery education for all!

Lanchester Poly Labour Club MOBILISE STUDENTS FOR A LABOUR VICTORY BASED ON SOCIALIST EDUCATION POLICIES!

May Day greetings to all workers from Oldham 'Militant' supporters

XEKINIMA—The Marxist Paper of the Greek workers
 greets all comrades fighting for a socialist world
 1, Maizonosl, Athens, Greece

ETON & SLOUGH LPYS
 Workers of the world unite!
 Forward to socialism!

Oldham LPYS
 call for a Labour victory
 May Day greetings to workers of the world!

Old Swan Branch Labour Party, Liverpool

greet all socialists:
 Forward to a just socialist society.
 Let's see the return of Labour candidates fighting for an irreversible shift of wealth

Fraternal greetings from **MILITANT IRISH MONTHLY**
 For workers' unity and socialism
 32 Middle Abbey Road, Dublin, Eire

CPSA NSB Glasgow supporters
 send May Day greetings
 ★ Socialism—the end
 ★ Workers' Unity—the means



Join us in the fight for a Socialist leadership and a socialist programme
Isle of Wight Constituency Labour Party

Keep out the Tories!
 Abolish the 'sus' law!
 May Day greetings from
PNP Youth [UK]

446 Uxbridge Road London W.12.

WAVERTREE

C.L.P.



send their fraternal greetings to the Labour Movement
Fight Redundancies! No more closures! For a 35-hour week!

The Bristol District Committee AUEW

sends May Day greetings to all members everywhere

CALLING EVERY READER

DOUBLE OUR MONEY

The Chairman of Ford's UK, Sir Terence Beckett, is getting a 39% pay rise—around £415 per week—as a reward for hard work, keeping wages down and profits up.

With a small number of supporters getting that kind of money, 'Militant' could manage very well without a fighting fund! But our job is to put the point of view of the workers at Ford's who had to struggle to get a fraction of that. We are unlikely therefore to get much sympathy, or cash, from people like Sir Terence!

We rely instead on stepping up the £s and pence donations from people like Dennis O'Flynn, a Ford worker and AUEW member, who gave £1.10 to 'Militant's' funds. At present he is campaigning to win Hitchin for Labour.

But if 'Militant' is to do its job, stepping up the fight to keep out the Tories and defend workers' interests we need a rise too!

This week's total was £961.17 but we need something like £1,880 per week coming in to be sure of reaching the year's target. To make up all the shortfall on the first quarter's target and reach £42,500 by July 7th we need as much as £2,470 per week!

We are confident that in an election period, supporters can raise well over that! Many have taken up our suggestions already; others must follow! Here are some examples:

From the cancellation of the LP Young Socialists' Easter Conference (cash saved on fares and accommodation) £20 from one

THIS WEEK: £961.17

Sheffield reader, £17 from Rotherham and £37 from Bradford supporters. This is also possibly the source of £20 donations from Harlow, Brighton, Reading, Bracknell and Ruislip. All very much appreciated!

From activists fighting for a Labour election victory—£7 collected at Provan Constituency Labour Party and £7.60 from Merseyside FBU members, including £1s from T Fields and J Allington. From LPYS members, to help in the election fight—£9 from Oldham and £3 from Ashtam under Lyme, for example.

From PNP members in Birmingham, £2.23. From readers at workplaces like Surrell Deeds Ltd., London (£5) and Alman Bakery, Manchester (£3).

From 'first-time' meetings in areas like Spennymoor (£6.50) and discussion groups: Mansfield (£1.60) and Bradford (£3). From socials like the one in Brighton that raised £30, Ware—£22 and Uxbridge Women's Group, at which £8.25 was collected.

From "extras" on the increased sales of the 'Militant', Blackpool supporters collected £3.59 last week and Harlow £3.45—among many others. Badges and homemade wine tasting (IOW £5), 'home brew', teas and coffees (Peterborough £8.73) and numerous "whip rounds" like one in the 'Sailor Prince', Wandsworth (£1.60), all help.

Build Militant

Area	Target 52 wks	Target £.6 wks	Proportion of target received	Received
Eastern	4,700	2,350		888
Hants & IOW	3,100	1,550		587
Humberside	2,000	1,000		314
London North	9,500	4,750		1,504
London South	3,900	1,950		974
Manchester & Dist.	4,500	2,250		764
Merseyside	5,000	2,500		752
Midlands East	3,300	1,650		1,116
Midlands West	9,000	4,500		1,751
Northern	5,500	2,750		992
Scotland East	2,900	1,450		374
Scotland West	4,500	2,250		633
South East	4,500	2,250		1,138
South West	3,100	1,550		713
Wales East	2,600	1,300		546
Wales West	3,400	1,700		535
Yorkshire	6,800	3,500		1,269
Others	6,700	3,250		476
Total	85,000	42,500		15,326

Progress towards year's target

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

From sweepstakes (Reading £2.50), raffles (Oldham, Swansea and Birmingham—over £12) and 'services' ranging from giving lifts (Handsworth £2.20, Wandsworth £2.30) and selling tickets (Longbridge £3.50 commission) to donating shop stewards' expenses (Birmingham £1.20) and tidying a bedroom (Chairman of Hertford & Ware LPYS to Secretary—£1).

Every one of these examples must be followed to step up the 'Militant's' 'Election Fund'. Papers like the 'Sunday Express', whose backers hate nothing more than the Marxists who challenge their

power and privilege are stepping up their attacks. To fight back and redouble the fight for socialist policies we need the backing of every reader of the 'Militant'.

Above all follow the example of those who have given personal donations—from 50p to £50—including:

G MacDonald (N London) £55.70; J McVey (Littlehampton) £26; S Nattrass (also Littlehampton) £12; E Leeming (Leeds NALGO) £11.50; O Craxton (Hayes LP) £10; J Short (Wandsworth GMWU) £6; and A Thompson (Bradford)—a 'windfall' of £7.50.

£5s from B McKay (Brigh-

ton T&G); A Huyton (Brighton student), M Singleton (Hove), J James (APEX Stevenage) and L Currie (Uxbridge LPYS).

£4—M Hyde (Birmingham T&GWU) and R Leggott (Humberside). £3—P Fagan (Hayes LP), E Ralston (Glasgow T&G), and P Todd (London). £2—P and M McDonald (Hayes), G Bigg (IOW), L Gauntlett (Ruislip LPYS), Mr and Mrs Wobey (Hackney) and a well-wisher who sent us Postal Orders, with a Norwood postmark.

B Halldin's donation of £1.80 had a Swedish postmark and B Wheatman's £1.50 came from Peter-

borough.

£1s included those from: S Hutton (E Yorks), C Mullins (NUPE), P Murphy (Ealing), C Harding (IOW), C Knight (Tunbridge Wells), 'Dave' and 'Ron' (GMWU Wandsworth), N Hammond (S Humberside) and J Burke (Birmingham).

Many thanks for every contribution this week and the many, many more we hope to receive by next Saturday! Forward to the £42,500 and a 'Militant' that's fighting fit!

By Clare Doyle



MAY DAY GREETINGS

Greater Manchester LPYS Liaison Committee send greetings

Forward to socialism—when every day will be ours

Fraternal greetings to all comrades in the labour and trade union movement
Ruskin Students' Union

Newport [IOW] Branch Labour Party Support your class! VOTE LABOUR for a socialist programme

May Day greetings from Brighton LPYS SMASH THE TORIES SOCIALIST POLICIES NOW!

COVENTRY [South East] CLP

sends fraternal greetings to the labour movement

KEEP THE TORIES OUT! VOTE LABOUR ON MAY 3rd

Join the Labour Party and fight for socialist policies—where it counts

"The Academician...must realise that he is coming into the workers' movement as a learner and not as a teacher." Trotsky 1932

May day greetings to 'Militant' readers from

YOLS REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Forward to a socialist Labour Party May Day greetings from

Handsworth LPYS

Rochdale LPYS

send fraternal May Day greetings to workers of the world

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ads

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NORWICH Readers' Meeting 'After the Election—which way forward for Labour?' Speaker: Peter Taaffe (Editor of 'Militant'). Wednesday May 9th at 'Whites', Queen St, Norwich
SWAPO Benefit Social. Live music with 'Soul Yard' and 'Tropicanas'. Bar extension. Proceeds to Medical Aid, SWAPO. Saturday 28 April 8 pm till late. Caxton House, St John's Way, Archway N19. Admission £1 (wageless 75p)

BRIGHTON & HOVE Committee Against Fascism public meeting. 'Say NO to fascism—Unity is Strength'. Speakers: Quintin Barry (PPC Kemp-ton); Dave Hill (PPC Brighton Pavilion); Cllr Brian Fitch (PPC Hove), + speaker from LPYS and other speakers. Pavilion Theatre, New Road, Brighton. Sunday 29th April, 7.30 pm, Admission 15p

ISLE OF WIGHT LABOUR PARTY

May Day public meeting:

"Why Vote Labour?"

Speakers: Cathy Wilson (Labour Candidate, Isle of Wight) Peter Taaffe (Editor of 'Militant') Town Hall, East Cowes, Isle of Wight 8.00 pm, Tuesday 1st May

LPYS Mass May Day canvass—Rochdale. Meet Labour Rooms, Smith St, 7.00 pm. Followed by disco and refreshments at Lamplighter Club, £1.

Spartacist League public meeting: 'Remember Labour's betrayals!' 7.30 pm, Tuesday 1 May, Australia Bar, Hurst Street, Birmingham. (For any further information, ring 021-472 7726)

General Election—Left perspectives, positions and arguments. Plus: secret DHSS code; Provisional IRA interview; Press Council attack; Mugabe interview; New American Right; Plastic People busted—again; Caryl Churchill's plays and a comprehensive listing of socialist publishers. The May Leveller: 40p or £6.00 annual subscription: 57 Caledonian Road, London N.1.

POST OFFICE CPSA PAY FIGHT BEGINS

"If the Post Office are being funny over our pay claim, let's hear how loud they laugh next Friday!"

This is the kind of militancy now being voiced by CPSA members in the Post Office.

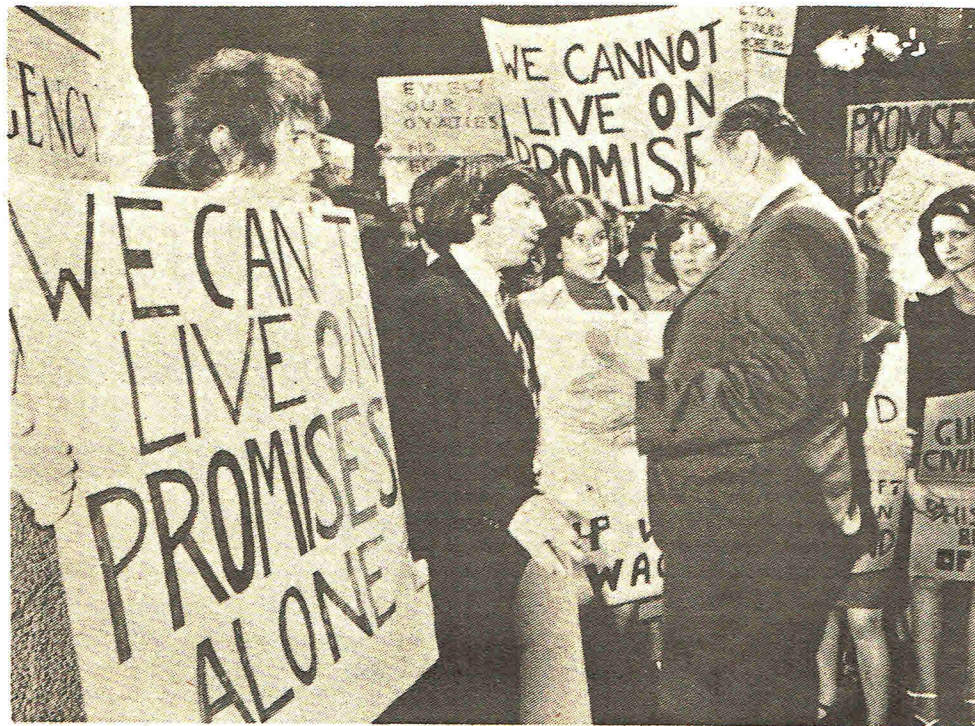
The Executive Committee of the union's nearly 40,000 strong Posts and Telecommunications Group (P&T) submitted our 1979 pay claim on 5th February. Yet, despite repeated representations, the Post Office have not even invited us to negotiate, never mind making an offer!

Since 1975, our members have helped push the corporation's profits way above £1,000 million. Yet our pay is so low, and over that period we have slipped so far behind other workers, that for 16 year old Clerical Assistants, for example, we have had to claim increases of 91% on 1975 rates (our last freely negotiated settlement).

For Clerical Officers (the more common grade) on the maximum scale, the figure amounts to 68%.

Even if our full claim is met—an average of 20% wage increases—it will only take 16 year-old CAs to £43.43 gross!

For several weeks, our section executive (GEC) were placing major emphasis on regrading. However, the feeling amongst the membership



CPSA Aberdeen P&T members in pay protest

is now so strong that they have moved in favour of a major pay campaign.

At a Special meeting on April 10th, the GEC finally agreed on a 'day of protest' during the afternoon of Friday 27th April, followed by a series of selective strikes, likely to involve commercial cash groups, data processing services and computer centres, including the massive GIRO complex at Bootle.

In Liverpool, we have booked the 'Stadium' for a mass rally, involving some 4,000 P&T Group members. Nationally, with members in key strategic areas, we are about to hit the Post Office where it really hurts!

A massive turnout on Friday 27th will bring home to our employers that CPSA members will not be taken for granted or ignored. The selective strikes will continue

to remind them!

★ All out on Friday 27th April!

★ Support the selective strikes from 30th April

★ Maintain the ban on co-operation

★ No overtime from 30th April

By Roy Jackson
(CPSA P&T Liverpool Branch Assistant Secretary personal capacity)

CIVIL SERVICE: ANGER AT PAY OFFER

The civil service pay offer of 9% plus £1 on April 1st, with staging of the remainder, got a hostile reception when put to the membership of the CPSA National Savings Bank Glasgow branch.

The offer, described by many as 'derisory' and 'contemptible', was discussed at a

mass meeting on Thursday 19th April. Generous clauses like two days' extra holidays after 17 years' service were greeted with ironic cheers.

The computer centre members, who have now been on strike for three weeks, were shown how solidly their action was supported when it came

to voting on the offer. The motion to reject the offer was carried with only 66 of the 2,307 members present voting to accept.

The meeting was in advance of the date voting was supposed to begin and may have to be reconvened, but it is a clear indication of the

mood amongst key sections of the membership.

The offer must be substantially rejected. Massive escalation of the action is the only alternative.

A CPSA member

"Full PRU in '79"

When hearing of the derisory offer, the first reaction of CAA Edinburgh members was against the employer, but blame quickly shifted to the spineless right-wing NEC majority who were putting forward such a ridiculous offer.

"A slap in the face" and "a complete sell-out" were the views echoed by members who had never been actively

involved in the union before, but had responded to the NEC's call to selective strike action.

Many of these members, taking home only £35 a week and due increases of 20-40%, consider it absolutely vital that they achieve full PRU in 1979. They see it as the function of the NEC to lead them in this fight.

However, as the selective action has continued and repeated calls to bring out key

sections of the membership have been ignored, they realise that the NEC has neither the will nor the determination to lead them in the kind of action necessary to secure our demands.

Instead the NEC weakened their bargaining position by calling off planned escalation among the air traffic control assistants over the Easter weekend. Even at the beginning of the dispute they announced that they would not call out DHSS and DE

members. We appreciate that action by these members could affect the unfortunate victims of our society. But we can protect them through the union.

The members involved in selective action are still determined to carry on the fight. They realise that the present strategy will not win any better offer. But by overwhelmingly rejecting the NEC's recommended acceptance of the offer, they hope to force the union leaders into involving other sections of the union membership.

These members have seen the price they have paid for the right wing's successful manoeuvring in reversing last year's conference elections. They also realise that in future they must ensure that a leadership prepared to fight for the members' interests is elected.

The fight is not over. A massive rejection could put the pressure back on the NEC to change their strategy. With a militant programme of industrial action, our claim can still be won in full.

Janice Campbell
(CPSA Civil Aviation Authority, Edinburgh)



"One of the longest-running white collar disputes" is how Bob Menneor, Assistant Branch Sec, NALGO, Tower Hamlets, described

the strike of 70 social workers out for 8 months. "We have had the worst offer in the country. Tower Hamlets won't even agree on

the national settlement. They want cuts of 25% in jobs with regrading and restructuring."

ROBB CALEDON FIGHT TO SAVE SHIPBUILDING

In common with every other section of British Shipbuilders, the Dundee shipyard formerly owned by Robb Caledon is under threat of closure. Last year British Shipbuilders' management announced their intention of losing 12,300 jobs in five years. Already Haverton Hill and Falmouth have been axed. Who is next on the list? The Yard committee spoke to Pat Craven.

If we don't get assurances of further orders before the summer holidays we're definitely in a bad way. A boat is needed right now; the order should really have been in by the start of this year, so that the drawing office could be working on it now.

The drawing office, the boilermakers and some of the general workers will suffer first. British Shipbuilders want 12,300 redundancies and if a yard doesn't fight, that's the one they'll pick on first.

We intend to fight as hard as possible, especially in view of the unemployment situation in the area. There are 1,000 in the yard at the moment, including office staff, and we are the highest employers of apprentices in the North East of Scotland.

We have the advantage that we can build big or small ships and specialist vessels, but one of the points we will be hammering home is the need for investment in the yard. We need modernisation if we are to compete on delivery dates. We haven't got the machines.

All management keep saying is 'work harder, work harder!' Give us the machinery and better working conditions and we will build the ships; we have the skills.

Job-sharing between yards has helped to keep jobs, but what is needed is a plan worked out by the unions to save the industry. The Combine Committee has been inactive, which is a pity because that's where a plan should be co-ordinated. Haverton Hill and Falmouth went to the wall without them meeting.

Practically every union has rejected the wages' standstill which management proposed for all workers on more than the new basic rates in every yard (see 'Militant' 434). We are looking for an improvement in the minimum earnings level. We are also demanding rank-and-file representation on the negotiating committee.

We intend to run a city-wide local campaign, and we expect the fullest involvement from MPs, the Regional and District councils. Already a resolution of support has been accepted by Dundee Labour Party.

We would like to express our appreciation to the workers who came out in the demonstration of February 27th, which demanded, among other things, the retention of shipbuilding at Robb Caledon.

UPW PAY BALLOT

Last Tuesday, 1,200 to 1,300 UPW members crowded into Central Hall, Bristol. Those at work walked out to attend.

Almost unanimously [five accepted] we rejected the latest Post Office offer, which included a productivity clause, mobility of labour and taking on of more part-time staff.

A number of the members speaking from the floor raised the need for a decent minimum wage to eradicate the need to work overtime. There were cheers for one brother who called for a 35-hour week with a decent

minimum wage instead of the present 43 hours.

There were also calls for an end to Saturday working and incremental scales.

This was by far the biggest meeting of UPW workers in Bristol apart from the 1971 strike, since the 1950s.

By a UPW member, Bristol South East LPYS

EDINBURGH: 350 UPW members voted on Sunday 22nd to reject the latest pay offer.

NGA Nottingham lock-out

Six NGA members and an apprentice at Herbert Jones, a small printer's in Beeston, Notts, have been locked out for nearly four months by another tin-pot employer trying to take on the unions.

Albert Brierley (FOC) outlined the dispute:

We've been on strike since December 13th last year. At 4.00 pm the management declared they were going "open house" from 8.45 am the following morning, breaking the existing closed shop agreement.

The dispute arose over the introduction of new photo-composition equipment, but we think they just used that as an excuse to go open house and have a go at the union.

We've been picketing every day and most deliveries have been turned away. The postman has refused to cross the line. Blacking has been very effective—we've managed to get most of our work being done outside stopped.

The dispute has been made official and our members from around the country have been on the picket. Some of the NUJ blokes at the Evening Post and several Labour Party Young Socialists have been down as well. We'd like help any time.

We've had one mass picket already. Now our union is organising a week of mass picketing.

Send resolutions of support to T G Brady, Sec, Sherwood Forest Branch NGA, 36 Ropewalk, Nottingham.

UNION CONFERENCES

EETPU

By an EETPU member

For Union Democracy and Socialist Policies

The EETPU conference proceedings this week will be closely observed by leading Tories and their big business paymasters, for an indication of what life might be like for them if Thatcher succeeds to office on 3rd May.

An appraisal of the Conference agenda must surely spell trouble for them.

Conference is certain to overwhelmingly reject any wage control, after all the worthless sacrifices made in previous years. The only transfer of wealth over the period of pay restraint has been from our pockets to the bosses'.

Since the last conference two years ago, most sections of the union: contracting and hospital electricians, TV engineers, power supply and car workers, have been involved in wage struggles.

EETPU members at Ford's played a leading role in the fight around the 1978 wage claim, despite the hesitant official support. This dispute was a major factor influencing the rejection of wage restraint by Labour Party conference.

Alongside resolutions expressing these demands, there are a number taking up the issue of differentials. Inevitably, as pay is eroded, the undermining of differentials angers skilled workers.

But the only answer is a united industry-wide struggle around one pay claim, including specific demands on differentials. Fighting on a sectional basis, as the tool-room and other skilled workers at Leyland attempted, will divide and weaken.

One branch finds a jovial aspect of wage restraint when declaring "that under these restrictions the total annual income, including expenses, free cars, houses, investment etc. of any British subject should not exceed that of the prime minister."

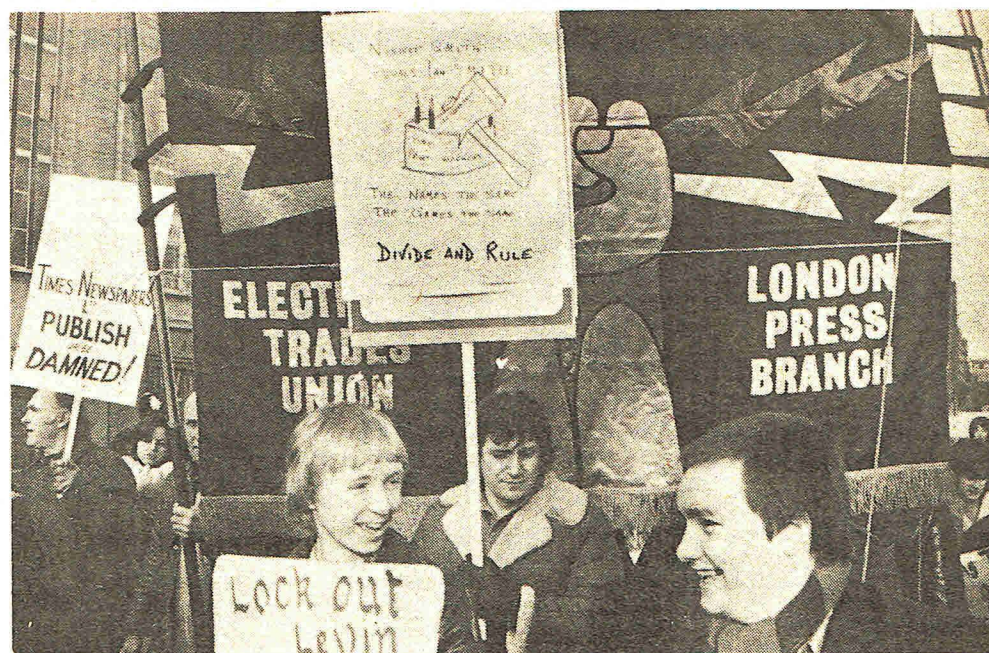
Perhaps also a poke at the

Labour and trade union leaders who elevate themselves above those they are supposed to be representing, and become remote from workers' conditions and needs. But more seriously, delegates will undoubtedly be critical of the leadership's failure to cast the union's votes in favour of the resolution at the 1978 Labour Party conference, rejecting the 5% pay policy.

Opposition to present government policies is reaffirmed in resolutions condemning cuts in public spending. Five deal directly with the NHS, and urge the EC to do everything in its power to halt the decline.

There are, however, no resolutions clearly mapping out the socialist alternative policies that would mobilise the entire working class in support of a Labour government.

Several call for support of the TUC's alternative economic strategy, which seeks to give the illusion of viability to 'British' industry, through the use of the National Enterprise



EETPU print members protesting at 'Times' closure—united action with full official backing is essential
Photo: MILITANT

Board, reflation and import controls. But these policies offer no real solutions—in fact if implemented, they would mean a spiralling of inflation and unemployment—a disaster for working people.

New technology and a society harbouring 1½m people on the dole queue will force delegates to reaffirm their support for the 35-hour week, and demand that the EC finally takes up this vital issue in a meaningful way.

A few resolutions directly refer to the lack of communications between the negotiating bodies and the membership. Delegates should support initiatives to turn control of the bargaining machinery for wages and

appalling wages and conditions. The EC this year must take action to mobilise the membership and utilise the union's strength by campaigning alongside other unions and the Labour Party to abolish low wages and long hours.

Such a campaign, linked to the abolition of the chaotic free enterprise system and replacing it with socialist planning, would pave the way to once and for all eradicating inflation, uncertainty and falling living standards.

A vigorous campaign organised by our union around this programme would offer hope to all low-paid workers, and help to ensure that, as most delegates and trade unionists are determined, the Tories are defeated on May 3rd by a massive Labour victory.

conditions towards the rank and file. This is one way of ensuring the success of the claim for a 35-hour week.

AUEW merger

Many delegates would have preferred the postponement of the conference until after the election. It now looks likely that at least two days will be chopped off to allow delegates to return to their areas in time to vote.

This will mean dropping from the agenda many burning issues, possibly including the proposed merger with the AUEW. EETPU members will no doubt demand a full discussion on this before it is put to the ballot.

Attempts to turn the conference into a banner-waving

rally for Labour must be prevented. With the possible election of a vicious Thatcher government and the next national conference two years away, delegates must carefully examine all the issues before them.

The EETPU conference could give no greater boost to Labour, than to sound out the call: against the Tories; against big business!

MILITANT trade union pamphlet Socialist programme for the EETPU

Price: 15p + 10p p&p from 'Militant', 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

USDAW

MEMBERS DEMAND £70 MINIMUM FOR 35 HOURS

This year's USDAW conference takes place in Eastbourne between April 28th and May 1st, on the eve of the most important general election since the war.

The fate of the Labour government will undoubtedly be to the forefront of delegates' minds as they formulate union policy for the coming year.

The important issues for all USDAW members will be wages, hours and working conditions. Many members suffer the poorest wages, the longest hours, and the worst working conditions in the trade union movement.

Wages in the large supermarket chains like Tesco's and Fine Fare are as low as £44.50 for 40 hours and in pharmacy as low as £41.92 gross. Union members are undoubtedly highly critical of this lack of determined action, as reflected by the propositions on this year's agenda.

A number of branches call for the implementation of a £60 wage for 35 hours, taking industrial action if necessary, but proposition 88 from Newcastle goes further by committing USDAW to opposition to all forms of wage restraint; establishment of a £70 minimum wage, and launching of a nationwide campaign in conjunction with other unions for a maximum 35-hour week, involving strike action if necessary to achieve this.

Real lead

If the Executive Council put forward such a strategy to abolish low wages, the response of the USDAW membership would undoubtedly be tremendous.

Proposition 91 also demands a special conference of the members to ratify any wage settlement.

This demand for greater democracy is taken up again in proposition 90, which condemns the Executive's actions over the past few months and their inability to provide a real lead in the fight for a living wage.

The amendment, substituting what amounts to a vote of thanks to the outgoing

By Jeff Price
(Delegate, Newcastle F180)

General Secretary, is hardly justified in view of the appalling living standards many members still suffer, and should be opposed.

The burning issue of youth unemployment is taken up by several areas, proposing socialist policies as an urgent answer. Proposition 68 calls upon the government, in conjunction with the TUC, to introduce a crash training programme for young people to tackle this problem.

This should be supported by every delegate, along with the amendment calling for affiliation to the Youth Campaign Against Unemployment, the campaign launched by leading trade unionists, Labour MPs and Labour Party Young Socialists, around a clear programme, including many of the demands put forward at our conference, to end the scandal of jobless school leavers and youth, redundant before they start.

Delegates are well aware, from past experience, that passing resolutions does not in itself solve any problems. What is needed is a determined lead to implement conference decisions.

For too long now USDAW members have endured

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essential reading for all trade unionists see back page



Tesco members—still on low pay for long hours
Photo: MILITANT

VAN DEN BERGH USDAW NEED SUPPORT

For the first time in 60 years, USDAW members in Van den Bergh & Jurgens have been forced to go on strike.

Management have stubbornly refused to meet the modest demand for "an acceptable shift rate" for the 961 USDAW members.

Jim Stanley, USDAW Branch Secretary, told me: "There are five different shift rates on site, and we're the lowest paid. We wanted to reduce shift differentials on site, eventually to get a site agreement.

"Management's earlier offer of a shift rate of £11.40 increased differentials! Their latest increase of 45 pence maintains differentials. Everybody on unusual hours should get similar rates of

By Richard Venton
(Birkenhead Labour Party)

pay." The latest offer is an insult. Van den Bergh's is part of the giant Unilever, so it's not poverty which is causing them to behave like a disgruntled Scrooge.

"They want to keep workers split," several pickets have remarked. But when management tried to get other stewards to agree to do USDAW members' work, the stewards walked out of the office, leaving management sitting there.

Workers elsewhere in Unilever are also giving

support—the Purfleet plant is operating an overtime ban in solidarity.

The pickets are allowing emergency services, medical staff and disabled drivers across the picket, but there is no way they'll be bullied into defeat. They have now got the official backing of USDAW.

Trade unionists throughout the Unilever combine must give them full moral and financial support. Trade unionists and Labour Party members should send donations and resolutions of support.

A victory for these workers will aid the fight for decent wages by other Unilever and USDAW workers.

Messages etc. to USDAW, New Ferry Road, Birkenhead.

Militant

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Police move into the anti-fascist demonstrators

Photo: MILITANT

POLICE VIOLENCE SHIELDS NF

By Mick Brooks
(Acton Labour Party)

National Front plans to hold an election meeting in Southall, the centre of London's biggest Asian community, provoked an explosion of anger from local people.

The NF's meeting place was a deliberate provocation — which could only have taken place with massive police protection for the NF thugs and racist hangers-on.

The fascists of the NF, who are out to destroy all democratic rights, are a threat, not just to the Asian community, but to the whole labour movement — as are the violent, repressive measures used by the police.

The meeting itself was not a genuine public meeting — hand-picked NFers were escorted through crowds of demonstrators by a massive

police guard.

Naturally, the local community was furious. The Indian Workers' Association called a general strike of workers and tradesmen for the afternoon. This was met by rock-solid 100% support.

But by throwing thousands of people onto the streets with no effective stewarding, the local IWA leaders bear a heavy responsibility for the failure to stop the meeting.

The police used incidents among the assembled youth, who were impatient with the general inactivity, as an excuse to clear the central streets of Southall.

'Militant' supporters in a leaflet warned in advance that the NF could be stopped — but only if the protestors avoided both passive standing

around and futile gestures of combat with the police.

Our leaflet said: "Faced with a police force equipped with riot shields and horses 'peaceful' measures (like the passive sit-down gestures and early dispersal proposed by some organisations) will leave thousands of people vulnerable to attacks and police charges and... The NF will not be stopped unless a blockade is organised with proper discipline and leadership.

"All too often, Anti-Nazi League counter-demonstrations degenerate into futile punch-ups with the police while the NF get away without the demonstrators even catching a glimpse of them."

The only exception to this depressing pattern was provided by the small but highly effective group of 'Militant' supporters around the Acton LPYS banner.

As the police gained self-confidence they split the protestors up into smaller and smaller pockets and drove us further out of Southall town centre.

Violence against us became more blatant as the police swaggered and strutted over the demonstrators, partic-

ularly the Asians. A pregnant woman was punched in the belly. Charges with horses and riot shields left unresisting protestors with blood streaming down their heads from baton wounds.

Police tactics also lead to the death of one Anti-Nazi League supporter, Blair Peach. According to reports, Blair was with a group who were charged by police when they had left the demonstration and were on their way home, he was beaten over the head with a baton, and subsequently died with a fractured skull.

The labour movement must demand a full enquiry into this horrifying incident and the general tactics of the police.

'Militant' supporter Martin Craxton, a member of the Regional Committee of the London LPYS was picked off by the police: his advice to the Asians around him was seen to be having an effect. He too was batoned, arrested, and beaten up in the police wagon.

Southall's Asian community are now burning with anger at the battering they have received from the police, who turned out as a paramilitary force to protect the fascist NF and repress a massive anti-fascist demonstration.

Events in Southall on Monday reinforce the need for the labour movement to mobilise mass forces in an organised manner to defend the Asian community and to sweep the fascists off the streets.

SPEKE

Continued from page one

through an occupation.

In itself, this is not a solution. But it is the most effective weapon. An occupation holds the workers together.

The workers are in control of the plant and there is no possibility of management sneaking machinery out. Controlling the factory gives workers tremendous confi-

dence.

Regrettably, the action committee has chosen not to occupy. Yet the record on Merseyside and nationally has shown that any plant threatened with closure must occupy to hold the men together.

Nothing will be gained by trying to entice Dunlop back by conceding some redundancies (1,000?) and offering to accept worse conditions (new manning levels, stricter discipline and so on). A half surrender of this kind will undermine unity and determination.

Dunlop workers must fight from the standpoint of no redundancies.

If Dunlops can't afford to provide jobs, then the firm should be nationalised under workers' control and management — not just Speke but the whole combine.

Workers in Firestone, Michelin and other tyre firms operating in Britain have also been threatened with the chop. The trade unions must draw up a plan for the nationalisation and planned integration of the whole tyre industry, which is now in a state of 'free enterprise'

chaos.

If labour-saving processes are coming in, then we must demand the implementation of the 35-hour week to preserve jobs and enhance living standards.

If old, out-dated lines are no longer required, alternative, useful products must be introduced. Workers' skills must not be squandered on the dole!

The fight is on to save Speke. But only resolute action by Dunlop workers, supported by all trade unionists, will force the hand of management.

PLEASE NOTE: Distribution of next week's 'Militant' will be delayed to allow for coverage of election results.

FIGHT TORIES

Continued from page one

Tory arguments are a cynical justification of the monstrous greed of big business, and the wealthy few who own and run it.

In reality, Britain is only ninth in the world tax league table.

The Tories intend to reduce the top rate tax to 60p in the £. But the wealthy parasites who have presided over the decline and degeneration of British industry don't pay this even now.

With the help of lawyers and accountants, the top 1% of taxpayers pay only 45p in the £. The top 10% of taxpayers—who take over a quarter of all income—pay only 29p in the £.

To blame industrial stagnation and chronic underinvestment on the allegedly 'penal' taxation of the rich is a monstrous Tory lie!

Yet Thatcher has the gall to attack the trade unionists defending workers' living standards as "vandals" and "muggers".

"In their muddled, but different ways", said Mrs Thatcher [19 April], "The vandals on the picket lines and the muggers in our streets have got the same message:

'we want our demands met, or else', and 'get out of our way, and give us your handbag, or else'."

"Let's smash the workers' trade union defence, and squeeze them for every drop of profit we can", is the Tories' real message.

One boss, at least, put things more honestly.

Explaining the Engineering Employers' Federation election statement—endorsing the public-spending cutting and union bashing policies of the Tories—Mr Edwin Garlick [17 April] made it quite clear what sort of government the bosses want:

A bosses' government

"We would like to see a Gilbert and Sullivan government, like the House of Lords, that does nothing in Parliament for five years, but by God does it well—and let's make some money!"

"Let's make some money". There we have it!

When it comes to reversing the decline of British industry and society, the Tories will indeed be little more than a comic-opera government. In attacking the labour and trade union movement, however, they would be like ruthless muggers.

That is why we must keep them out!

Fight for a Labour victory! Keep up the fight for socialist policies!

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