

Militant

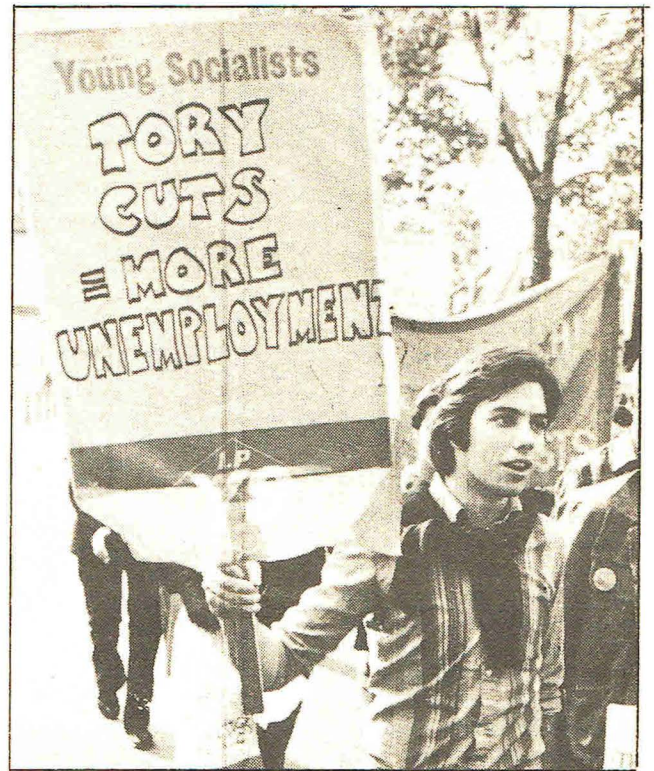
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15p

FIGHT THE TORIES-
LPYS IN FRONT LINE

TORY HELL FOR THE UNEMPLOYED



LPYS
Conference
special
pages 7-10

The Tory budget's savage attack on workers' social wage is vicious enough—but worse is yet to come.

The abolition of all unemployment benefit and a return to the old hated means-tested supplementary benefit. That is the plan now being studied for Tory ministers at the Department of Employment.

The Tories' latest attempts to turn the clock back to the 1930s will be bitterly opposed by the entire labour movement and particularly the 1½ million condemned to ever-growing dole queues by a bankrupt capitalism.

These horrendous plans, which reveal the brutal lengths to which the Tories are prepared to go to defend the bosses' system, underlie the urgency of mobilising an all out campaign to bring down the Thatcher government.

The profit system has put millions on the dole—but the bosses want to punish their victims. They are out to destroy the minimal rights the working class have fought for over the years.

Already, the government expect that only a minority will get unemployment pay, in the next few years as an increasing proportion have been out of work for over a year and unemployment benefit only last 12 months. If the government's proposed scheme were introduced, it would be sheer robbery, depriving wor-

By Nick Toms
(LPYS National Committee)

kers of benefits they have already contributed to.

What would the means test mean for workers? From the first day of unemployment they would have to fill in forms detailing all sources of incomes in their families, all savings, etc in order to get a pitifully small amount of money to live on.

The means test, humiliating by its very nature, has always discouraged many people from applying for benefits because of the stigma attached.

The trade unions have always fought for a high level of non-means tested benefits, not only for the unemployed, but in the interest of all workers.

The Tories are cynically out to create more poverty among the unemployed in the hope that they will



become desperate for any job regardless of low wages or poor conditions.

But Thatcher and Co. are making a big mistake if they think that the working class, in the 1980s, will be cowed by unemployment or will sit back while its living standards and rights are destroyed.

Last week's budget included the decision to tax unemployment pay long with other short-term benefits. The main saving is that the inland revenue will not

need to give tax refunds to workers who lose their jobs or go on strike. The money involved is trifling, but the Tories are determined to inflict the maximum hardship on workers.

Earnings related benefit, which gave unemployed workers a small supplement to the grossly inadequate benefits, is to be phased out. It will go down to 10% next January and disappear in April 1982. This is barefaced theft of money already contributed by workers for

years. All these attacks, moreover, coincide with budget measures deliberately designed to increase unemployment.

Not content with trying to murder industries like steel and shipbuilding, or with savage cuts in housing spending which will put more building workers on the dole, the Tories have poised the knife once more over our services.

What will be the job prospects in education with

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MAKE MAY 14th A ONE DAY GENERAL STRIKE

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Militant

What will the budget mean?

The British economy is slipping deeper into the worst recession since the 1930s. The Tories' Budget, far from cushioning its effects, will intensify the coming slump.

The budget deliberately sets out to make the catastrophic effects of the recession as harsh as possible for workers and their families. Another million workers face the dole in the next year or so. Together with the 1.6 million already jobless, they are threatened with the biggest single cuts in living standards imposed on the working class since the ruthless introduction of the New Poor Law system in the 1830s.

The Tories claim that Howe's Budget measures are all part of a "medium term plan", which will eventually bring about a revival of the ailing British capitalism.

But the Tories have about as much ability to plan the movement of the economy as a bob-sleigh driver has to plan a descent of Cresta Run. Clever steering on the bends may speed things up—but then on the Cresta the prize is for the fastest descent, and not even the champion claims to be able to climb back up from the bottom.

The figures presented by Howe and the Treasury leave no doubt that they are assuming a very sharp downswing: gross domestic product will fall, in real terms, by 2½% between 1979 and 1980. Subsequently, the economy is expected to grow by an average annual rate of only 1% up to 1983/84, which means that after four years the output lost in the first year will scarcely have been recovered. Yet even these figures are probably over-optimistic, and it is reported that the Treasury model was predicting an even worse slump.

The further cut in public expenditure, which is planned to fall by 4% in real terms in the next three years, will hit vital welfare services hardest. The cuts will directly create more unemployment, and will inevitably reduce the overall demand for goods and services in the economy, creating more unemployment indirectly. Government investment, for instance, is planned to fall by a staggering 17½%.

Government expenditure in Britain is already lower than most EEC countries (only 42.8% of GNP in 1979, compared to 46.4% in the economically stronger West Germany and France, and 58.3% in Holland). Yet Howe intends to reduce public expenditure here to below 40% by 1983/84.

Many big companies, moreover, are privately alarmed that aid to industry is being slashed by £100 million in the coming year,

ment. The Treasury itself accepts that unemployment will rise to over two million in the coming year, and various independent forecasters predict three or even four million unemployed in the next two or three years.

But for all their elaborate 'economic models', 'plans', and so-called 'strategies', the Tories have left one very important thing out—the 12½ million-strong labour and trade union movement, which will be aroused to a fury of opposition against the class measures of this bosses' government.

The Tories and big business are suffering from a serious delusion if they think that the working class will sit back and accept mass unemployment and impoverishment on this scale while the rich, according to Howe's 'strategy' will be looking forward to the lion's share of £2½ to £3½ billion tax hand-outs in three years' time.

In recent months there have undoubtedly been some secondary set-backs for the working class, because of the lack of bold, fighting leadership from the movement nationally. But in the coming period the workers will not be weakened and demoralised by mass unemployment as the Tories vainly hope.

The ruthless attack by the Tories and the bosses on workers' living standards, what remains of the 'welfare state' and of hard-won democratic rights will produce an unprecedented radicalisation amongst millions and millions of workers. The swing to the left in the Labour Party and trade unions will be accelerated, and there will be stronger and stronger demands for bold socialist policies capable of solving the problems facing the working class.

In criticising the Tories' policies as "punk monetarism", Denis Healy implies that there is a more "acceptable" version of monetarism which would offer a solution for the labour movement. This week, moreover, Jim Callaghan spoke again of the need for "a prices and incomes policy" to solve the problems of the British economy (i.e. British capitalism).

By advocating a diluted form of Thatcherism, Healy and Callaghan are actually giving succour to the Tories and undermining the opposition of the labour movement. They are offering workers a return to the disastrous, pro-big business policies of the last Labour government.

The only way out of the crisis is to break through the rotten framework of capitalism and take over the key sections of the economy—the big monopolies, the banks, and finance houses—and run them under democratic workers' control and management, to provide the basis of a democratic socialist plan of production.

This call for the socialist nationalisation of the 'commanding heights' must be the key plank of the labour movement's programme to fight the Tories. Armed with such a programme, the whole labour movement, together with unorganised workers and sections of the middle class, must be mobilised in an all-out struggle to bring down the Tory government and replace it with a Labour government committed to socialist policies.

A REPLY TO TRIBUNE'S EDITOR

By
Lynn Walsh

Does the 'Tribune' not support this demand? More to the point, does 'Tribune' believe that this vital demand will be painlessly achieved as a reform graciously conceded by the bosses in the present period of economic crisis? Does he see no connection between a fight for this immediate, necessary measure and a struggle for a fundamental socialist change in society?

Turning in the opposite direction, 'Tribune's' editor also echoes the organisational allegations of the right wing, implying that the Militant Tendency is "a closed conspiracy." He repudiates any idea that the 'Tribune' is a tendency: "We will make one thing clear; 'Tribune' does not 'organise' within the labour movement. This newspaper has no organic links with the Tribune Group in the House of Commons or with the Tribune Groups which have formed themselves in the constituencies. 'Tribune' was, is, and will remain an independent socialist newspaper which argues out the major issues of the day."

Is the editor of 'Tribune' saying that his paper is incapable of effectively organising support for its ideas? Is that his real objection to the 'Militant', that it is effective in organising and mobilising a left wing around a clear socialist programme within the Labour Party and the trade unions?

It is certainly clear from this editorial and from Richard Clements' previous articles, that he is completely incapable of taking up and answering the arguments of 'Militant'. He vainly hopes that the 'Militant' will just fade away, as a number of these sects drifted out of the Labour Party in the past.

But he will be disappointed. As the overwhelming support for the 'Militant' against the recent attempts at a witch-hunt shows, 'Militant' now has an enormous layer of support within the rank and file of the Labour Party and the trade unions. This will not be undermined by scurrilous attacks and smears.

In the past, Richard Clements has refused to debate with 'Militant' (or he has agreed and then failed to turn up!). But we would now challenge Richard Clements: if he feels so strongly against 'Militant' and the ideas that it puts forward, let him debate in public with the representatives of this paper—not on the basis of trivial gossip and hearsay accusations, but on the key issues of programme, policy and tactics facing the labour movement today.

'Tribune' (28 March) published an extraordinary editorial, "Underhill, the Militant Tendency and the fight for democratic socialism," which demands an answer. While purporting to oppose the right wing's attempts to launch a witch-hunt against the Militant, the editorial in fact launches into a vitriolic attack on this paper.

Firstly, we must make it clear that left MPs like Tony Benn, Dennis Skinner, Eric Heffer, Joan Maynard, and others associated with the Tribune Group have taken a principled stand against the witch-hunt. They understand that any attack on the Militant, if successful, would very soon spill over into an attack on the left as a whole.

Many members of the Labour Party who generally identify with the ideas of "Tribune" have also defended the "Militant" against attack, and support the right of all left-wingers to campaign for their ideas within the party.

This approach, however, is in marked contrast to the abusive tone adopted by Tribune's editor, Richard Clements. Those who read 'Tribune' regularly will be aware that it is a part of a continuing campaign against the 'Militant' based on scurrilous gossip and slanders picked up from both the right wing and from the very ultra-left sects whom Richard Clements claims to despise so much. Even a 'Tribune' reporter commented to 'Militant' supporters on the paranoid attitude of Richard Clements towards the 'Militant'.

Previously, we have not responded to Clements' attempts to goad us, or to his efforts to embroil us in a futile wrangle with the sects (with whom he seems to be pre-occupied). But enough is enough, and we feel that the great majority of Tribunites will want to disassociate themselves from the serious, but totally unsubstantiated, allegations made in his editorial.

It is necessary, moreover, to take up this latest attack in the pages of 'Militant' because our experience is that we have been denied the right of reply in 'Tribune'. In the past (including in the last two weeks), letters from 'Militant' supporters have either been cut out of all recognition or completely suppressed.

The tone of this latest editorial can be judged from the following: "If there were a political Trades Description Act, the Militant Tendency would be sued for false pretences for its claim that it is 'Marxist'. Its policies are a mish-mash of Leninist slogans combined with a few selected quotations from some of the most uninspired of Trotsky's thoughts, and it has a Stalinist organisation which makes the British Communist Party look like the Liberal Party at prayer..."

What justification or evidence has Tribune's editor got for implying (and in the past asserting on the basis of

malicious gossip) that 'Militant' supporters use Stalinist methods? 'Militant' supporters have always scrupulously avoided the use of underhand manoeuvres and subterfuge in their work in the labour movement.

But 'Stalinist' is not simply a term of political abuse. It is an exact term for the character and methods of the totalitarian bureaucracy which dominates the planned economies of the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe and a number of other states, and for the policies and methods of its supporters in the Communist Parties of the capitalist states.

'Militant' has always fundamentally opposed the totalitarian methods of these regimes and their apologists, and advocated a revolutionary struggle for the restoration of workers' democracy.

The accusation of Stalinism, however, is somewhat surprising coming from 'Tribune'. In its 40th anniversary issue, 'Tribune' reprinted an obituary of Stalin printed at his death in 1953. "Of course," it said, "the achievements of the Stalin era were monumental in scale." After cataloguing a number of "monumental achievements," 'Tribune' went on to ask: "Who, in the face of these colossal events, will dare to question Stalin's greatness? How super-human must be the mind which resided over these world-shattering developments?"

'Militant', on the other hand, has always shown that Stalinism was a perversion of the genuine socialist ideas of the October revolution, and has never for a moment given credence to the dictatorial role of Stalin or his successors.

Regrettably, it is the editor of 'Tribune' who has resorted to the dishonest Stalinist method of amalgam, of trying to lump 'Militant' together with the ultra-left sects on the fringes of the labour movement in order to smear us with their crazy ideas and alien methods.

'Tribune's' editor also attempts to taunt 'Militant' with the spurious allegation, borrowed from the various despised sects, that 'Militant' is purely a reformist tendency. In support of this, he says that the 'Militant' "espouses...what is clearly a 'reformist' trade union demand for a reduction in the working week to 35 hours."

500th issue

To celebrate our 500th issue 'Militant' will be publishing 24 pages on 25 April. Have you or your organisation sent in a 500th GREETING yet? Rush them in now!

FASCISTS DEFEATED IN BRIGHTON

On Saturday morning over a thousand people gathered to prevent the fascists holding a meeting on the Brighton Level, the traditional ground of the local labour movement.

The anti-fascist rally was magnificent. There was a good turn out from the youth, including 200 Young Socialists and Labour Party members. The mood was one of determination and confidence in our ability to prevent the fascists from using the Level.

Meanwhile, about 70 'Sussex Front' supporters, a motley, bedraggled crew, gathered in Palmeira Square. Many of the so called 'Sussex Front' were sporting British Movement badges, swastikas, and the 'odal rune'—the international symbol of the Nazis.

They didn't look very happy—perhaps it wasn't just the poor turn out, but because their planned disco the night before had been cancelled. This was due to the pressure brought by the Brighton and Hove Committee Against Fascism.

The fascists had planned to hold a social in a seafront pub, frequented by local youth. However, a number of mothers had expressed their alarm that their children had tickets not knowing what kind of organisation the 'Sussex Front' was.

The landlord, when he was told they were fascists, cancelled the booking.

The fascists eventually left the square, protected by 300 police—not so much a march, more a quick dash to the safety of a backstreet square, with all the narrow streets around blocked off by yet more police.

The anti-fascist forces on the Level decided to march through the town, and with their red banners flying they were cheered by the crowds of shoppers.

However, as the rear of the march passed St Peters Church, a group of about a dozen fascists had stopped but were soon but to flight by marchers at the rear.

Another 30 or so fascists were gathering at the back of the church. As many of us had suspected, they were planning to have their own meeting on the Level when the march was out of sight. This would have represented a victory for them, as they had bragged and announced they were going to meet on the Level come what may.

The people left at the Level had already spotted the fascists and reported this to the march, which turned back. The fascists were scattered in all directions, dropping their placards as they went.

The Brighton and Hove Committee Against Fascism thanks all those who came from all over the regions, to make this day another success in the ongoing battle against racialism and the fascists.

By a 'Militant' Reporter

A member of the 'Sussex Front' at Brighton—the vile ideology of the fascists must be crushed by the labour movement.



Photo: Militant

BM ATTACK IN WOOLWICH

Over the weekend, several people were injured, mainly black youth, when a mob of 70 thugs from the Nazi British Movement attacked people queuing at a cinema in Woolwich, South London.

The nazi mob marched six abreast through the centre of Woolwich, chanting nazi slogans and giving 'seig heils', and then, brandishing iron bars and pick-axe handles ran berserk in to the 200 or so cinema goers, many of whom were West Indians.

And as can be seen from the Woolwich attack, the labour movement can only rely on its own strength to

squash the fascists—the vicious attack over the weekend received an absolute blanket of silence in the press. Only the Daily Telegraph and Evening News mentioned the incident, and then only giving it a few inches of type.

But of course, in the land of the Tory gutter press mass coverage is reserved for 'shock horror' tales of 'thuggery' on trade union picket lines (though not from the police or management of course). For the Tory press, an unprovoked, premeditated Nazi assault on young workers spending the evening out is not newsworthy.

Daily Mirror Subversive?

By Roger Shrivves (Deptford CLP)

The Daily Mirror, March 27

According to the Daily Express "Scroungers were told firmly to get off Britain's back" in last Wednesday's budget. They were referring, of course, to the sick and the unemployed who were being attacked to try to solve capitalism's problems.

Meanwhile, back in Buckingham Palace, Britain's leading scrounger and her enormous family were getting their huge supplementary benefit increased with no fear of visits from the Social Security, checking on co-habitation, or to ensure that the "breadwinner" was genuinely seeking work. No, that kind of harassment is for the lower orders.

The Queen, or Her Majesty as she is known to friends, got a big rise of £435,000 up to £2,716,300 a year. Lesser mortals (mere Highnesses like

Princess Anne) got more too.

Anne got £20,000 more to help with the housekeeping and the horses, and Margaret was given £10,000 extra as part of a job creation scheme for gossip writers.

The next day Her Majesty had to do some work. She was coming to Deptford for an arduous hour of walking and hand shaking in the unmajestic working class suburb in South East London.

Deptford has an unemployment rate of over 10% and New Society reckoned recently that Lewisham borough had possibly the lowest average income of any borough in London.

The area has been depressed ever since the closure of Surrey Docks and numerous local factories ripped the heart out of the district. As one unpatriotic stallholder in Deptford put it, even the flags and bunting looked more like torn up underwear than royal emblems.

On my way to work on the



Thursday, a crowd of school-children had started to form. I went into a newsagents to buy some papers. Reading the Daily Mirror front page, I saw the headline "Good day for the royals—mean day for the rest of us".

Spotting a teacher friend on the other side of the road miserably shepherding some wet and bedraggled children, I waved the paper in the air, pointed at the headline and shouted out, "They're right aren't they?"

At this remark, the long arm of the law descended on me. Just a minute said the law, "you can't go round displaying things like that here. It could cause a breach of the peace."

"What do you mean" I asked, "this is a free country, isn't it?" "Well just put it away" he replied. He was polite but very insistent. I didn't argue for long. After all I had to get to work.

For once I thought it was lucky that I had sold out of Militants at the previous night's Labour Party meeting. I got a warning for "displaying" the Daily Mirror in the sight of Her Majesty. If I'd sold Militant I would by now probably be Militant's correspondent in the Tower of London.



In the aftermath of the appalling North Sea oil disaster in which 123 workers died, trade unionists in both Norway and Britain have called for a thorough re-appraisal of safety regulations.

To date the oil companies have been hostile to trade unionism, and in their absence there have been serious allegations that proper safety

measures have been neglected.

John Miller, T&GWU national officer responsible for the oil industry, has pointed out that, "At present there is no provision for safety committees as required in onshore industry, or the right of union safety representatives to be consulted."

"It is all up to the installation engineer who is responsible to the company."

Until the cause of last week's tragedy is known, no-one can say it was preventable. But already alar-

T.U Safety Levels Now

ming reports have cast doubt on the oil companies' claim that safety should be left exclusively in their hands.

The 'Observer' reported (30 March) that the 'leg' that broke away from the doomed oil rig was of a design "not yet fully tested for its ability to withstand North Sea conditions."

They concluded that "the findings raise doubts about the safety of virtually all the entire North Sea operations."

Doubts have been raised about the construction of the platform which capsized. Captain Hauge, one of the rig's duty skippers, who left the rig two hours before the disaster commented: "How could this happen? The rig is said to be constructed in a way so it cannot capsize. Now it's floating upside-down in the sea."

One survivor pointed out that it only took 15 minutes from one of the legs cracking to the platform capsizing: "We had always been told that a collapse was just not

possible, that each leg had two anchors and if a leg went the anchors would hold." ('Sunday Times' 30 March)

Some press reports have claimed that metal fatigue is the most probable cause of the disaster.

Three years ago Scottish trade unionists told the government that they were concerned about welding standards on the rigs. In the aftermath of the Ekofisk oil rig blow out of 1977 the government set up the Burgoyne Committee on safety in the oilfields, which completed a report recently.

Its two trade union members handed in a minority report calling for a greater priority on safety and trade union involvement in monitoring safety standards.

In Norway the secretary of the oilworkers union has claimed that there is inadequate safety precautions on oil rigs and called for purpose-built accommodation platforms and survival suits to be close at hand for all

offshore workers.

Clearly it is vital for safety measures on design, construction, planning and living conditions to be totally overhauled. But does any worker really expect oil companies who are motivated by profits and not human lives, to be the best guarantors of this?

To really get decent safety and living conditions on the North Sea rigs the oil companies need to be taken into public ownership, with the workers being able to plan the whole industry for the benefit of all. With workers' control and management it could be ensured that safety measures were at their maximum standards.

The horrific deaths of 123 oil workers in the icy North Sea, in an accident the capitalists claim should not have been possible, is yet one more urgent reason for workers themselves controlling society.

By Jim Chrystie



'besmirches' Bournemouth

Maggie Thatcher addressed the central council of the Conservative Party in Bournemouth on 22nd March and the local LPYS organised a very successful anti-Tory demo to welcome her.

But the 'real' Margaret Thatcher's arrival was not nearly as sensational though, as Alan Hardman's caricature of her portrayed as 'Plunder-women' passed serenely through the streets of Bournemouth to the sounds of 'fabulous', 'what a body', 'fantastic', 'she is superb', 'pure magic'.

People on buses waved and one bus conductor jumped off and asked if he could have a poster to put up in the bus!

Even the police were unable to contain their laughter. One policeman asked if he could take her home, but was firmly told, "Not unless you promise to hang her in the station canteen."

Three thousand demonstrators gave the 'real' Mrs Thatcher a welcome that she and her Tory friends won't forget in a hurry. For 1½ hours the LPYS and its many supporters sat on the steps of the Pavilion Theatre entertaining the crowds with the 'Red Flag' and the 'Internationale' while they awaited the arrival of Maggie.

We sang and chanted as many socialist songs as we could remember and one old lady aged about 70-80 years could be seen joining in with us and thoroughly enjoying herself. She later came across and begged us to hit Thatcher over the head with our banners for her!

In the past, this area has been traditionally a bastion of Tory support, but instead of a sedate 'walkabout' shaking hands with loyal Tory voters, Mrs Thatcher was pushed and jostled by the crowds who were booing and chanting, "Maggie out, out, out."

As she reached the steps the LPYS broke into a tumultuous rendition of the 'Red Flag' and one ex-colonel type commented, "You have besmirched the good name of Bournemouth."

Poeple from miles around and all walks of life were sufficiently concerned about the future that they felt that they had to make some form of protest; GMWU members from Bridport, 35 miles away, radiographers etc. from Poole, Bournemouth and Southampton hospitals, and even 'Conservatives against the EEC'!

Later, jubilant demonstrators danced the conga to the sound of "Maggie Thatcher's tragic, socialism's magic, la la la la," in front of the Pavilion Theatre. Bournemouth will never be quite the same again!

By Julie Harris
(Youth Officer, Poole CLP)

MOBILISE SOCIALIST OPPOSITION

The decision of Labour's NEC to convene a re-call one-day conference is undoubtedly a tremendous step forward for the labour movement in the fight back against the Tory government.

The conference will provide the opportunity for the party membership to give a clear lead to the entire labour and trade union movement. A socialist programme and mass campaign will draw together all those currently engaged in battle against the Tories.

Yet the right wing oppose the calling of a conference. John Golding moved that a rally or demonstration be held instead! "The affiliated organisations couldn't afford the cost," claimed one right-winger. Yet it was the largest of the affiliated organisations, the T&GWU, which originally requested a re-call conference be held. Their letter asked, "That everything be done to mobilise socialist

By a
'Militant'
reporter

opposition to the current programme."

That is clearly the task of the conference. To endorse a socialist alternative to the Tories and a commitment for its implementation by the next Labour government. If this were done the struggle to kick the Tories out would be strengthened.

Any worker, sceptical that the next Labour government would merely be a re-run of the last, could be won to an active campaign to oust the Tories if the party committed itself to a bold socialist programme.

Now that the conference has been called, the voice of

the party membership must be heard. Amendments to the NEC statement being present should also be allowed from CLPs and trade unions. Resolutions will undoubtedly be submitted from local parties and affiliated organisations demanding this right.

A discussion was also held on a motion submitted by Doug Hoyle calling for "urgent action to restrict the import of cars."

Opposed by Tony Sauniois from the LPYS, who argued that import controls only looked at the symptomatic and "not the cause which was the chaos and decay of capitalism which could only be ended by a socialist plan of production based on public ownership of the commanding heights of the economy," the motion was referred to the home policy committee.

Tony also argued that import controls threatened the internationalism of the labour movement. "How could the steel workers have turned to the workers of the world for support with import controls being used and threatening the jobs of foreign workers," and that retaliation would be taken sparking off a trade war.

Despite the refusal of the NEC to date to initiate any witch-hunt in the party based on the report published by

Lord Underhill, was once again raised at the NEC last week.

During a discussion on the good result for the party in the Southend East by-election Jim Callaghan interjected and said that Lord Underhill had now published his report and "What was the NEC proposing to do about it? What guidelines would be given to constituency Labour Parties?"

Without discussion right wingers commented that the matter was to be raised at the next meeting of the Organisation Committee.

A letter raising the question of any links between sections of the party and the CIA,

bankers and industrialists has been submitted by Tony Sauniois, Joan Maynard and Emlyn Williams. It is to be hoped that resolutions supporting the revelations of such links will be sent in, to support those on the NEC who are raising the matter of concern to the party membership.

The right wing are determined to keep raising the Underhill report in the run-up to party conference, where they hope to regain a majority. The NEC must stand firm against any witch-hunts.

At the recent conference of USDAW's Eastern Division, an important resolution was passed on Labour Party Democracy.

If this is reflected throughout the rest of the union USDAW could well be lining up behind demands for the extension of Party democracy at Party conference this autumn.

The resolution, which was passed by a three to one majority, contained the demands for the election of the Party's leadership by conference, for the

right of General Management Committees to re-select MPs, for the NEC to decide the manifesto, for factory branches, joint Trades Council/Labour Parties and for Conference decisions to be binding on the Parliamentary Party.

In the period ahead it is vital that union branches pass resolutions such as USDAW's Eastern Division have done, so that the demand of the ordinary members for a democratic socialist Labour Party is realised.

Labour Party Conference—the one-day event will be a step towards rallying socialist opposition to the Tories



SO MUCH FOR LORD UNDERHILL!

The mood of the Southern Region Annual Conference of the Labour Party was one of bitterness and anger at the Tory government, and a determination to get rid of them as soon as possible.

However, a number of delegates made clear that it was not enough to rely on the unpopularity of the Tories, it was essential to build a mass democratic Labour Party committed to socialist policies.

With this in mind, delegates rounded on the regional executive for the evidence they wanted to submit to the commission of enquiry. This included the abolition of the women's section on the NEC, the LPYS representative to be elected by the constituencies at the annual conference, etc. As one delegate put it, these proposals are to the right of the CLV.

A number of older delegates came to the rostrum to oppose what they saw as a direct attack on the LPYS, the life-blood of the movement.

Ron Hayward representing the NEC presented 'Militant' supporter Cathy Wilson, Isle

By Ray Apps

of Wight's Labour candidate at the general election, with the shield for the best performance on party building, nearly 10% of the Labour vote at the election having joined the Party.

There couldn't be a better answer to the claim that Lord Underhill (referred to as Lord Underhand by a delegate) has made that 'Militant' drives people out of the party.

In presenting the award, Ron said, "I wish your brand of socialism and organisation would invade the mainland."

A composite demanding all-out opposition to the cuts was passed by an overwhelming majority. This composite called on the Regional Council to inform all Labour groups and all Labour members on regional and area health authorities that it is their role to oppose cuts in their services, and to support trade union action against the cuts.

One indignant Labour councillor got to the rostrum protesting that councillors didn't need to be reminded of their duty. Another councillor replied that this didn't accord with his experience—some

needed to be reminded regularly (to loud cheers). "If we don't carry out party policy we should be kicked out."

The composite's concluding paragraph stimulated the largest part of the discussion dealing as it did with the experience of the last Labour government.

The dying remnants of the right wing, notwithstanding the fact that a number of unions had come to the rostrum in support of the composite, desperately tried to get 15 delegates with credentials to stand for a card vote to be taken.

The chairwoman waited for what seemed like an age for the right to muster their forces. One by one they got up until they reached the grand total of eleven. To applause and cheers the conference declared.

"That the Labour Party must now reject the strategy pursued by the last Labour government, of attempting to work within and reform the present economic system, and instead campaign for the election of a Labour government committed to carrying out a fundamental socialist change in society based on the public ownership of all major industries, the banks and financial institutions, under workers' control and manage-

ment ensure investment in industry and low interest rates, which can bring an improving standard of living for ordinary people, together with full employment and improved public ser-

vices." The Militant meeting held immediately after a long day at conference attracted 46 delegates. £60 was raised for the fighting fund. As for the CLV, their meeting was cancelled—a sign of the future.

FIGHT THE CUTS

The Borders Regional Council are ready to decimate their education service. They are already bottom of the table in everything but pupil/teacher ratio, where they lie fifth.

Despite vehement protests by the Scottish teachers' union, the EIS, teachers and head teachers as to the eventual results of these measures, the council has its knife poised to draw blood.

The services is already pared to the bone and the only things that are left to go are the bodies. This year 12 teachers will go. In 1981, with falling attendance rolls, 60 primary teachers will be axed and over 100 teachers in all affected.

The councillor primarily involved in implementing the cuts is often heard to remark that he was educated in a class of 45 and it did him no harm.

This is a matter of debate when we watch him gleefully implement the destruction of

the regions' education system. All visiting specialist teachers will disappear in 1981 and the service will be just ticking over.

There will be no improvements in school caretakers' houses but rents are to be raised by 25%; no in-service training at all will be provided and there will be massive reductions in expenditure in all fields of education.

The local Labour Party branches and the EIS are doing all in their power to oppose the cuts and let the people of the Borders know what it means to their children. The Regional council themselves are keeping very quiet about it all, a situation which suits them admirably as their job isn't difficult if the public are ill-informed and unaware.

By Linda Briggs
(Berwick and East Lothian CLP)

LEFT and RIGHT

Underhill advises

A number of our readers have seen reports in 'The Times' that the so-called 'Prevention of Terrorism Act' has been renewed by the government. No-one was surprised at that.

The act allows draconian powers to the police to arrest and question 'suspects' without charging them, and has been used to harass numerous active shop stewards and many people of Irish descent in Britain. A very Tory measure, which should be opposed by all socialists.

The part that caused confusion was the claim that a certain Lord Underhill has been appointed as an adviser to the government on this reactionary act. As one reader says, surely this couldn't be old Reg of 'report' fame.

As a loyal party member whose every act is motivated by the good of his party, surely his only advice to the Tories would be 'resign'. Also he is fighting the Marxists on the grounds that we are 'undemocratic', so surely he wouldn't want to be involved in such a squalid undemocratic Act as this. But then we could all be wrong.

Business before sport

Two prominent Tories may not be too dismayed over last week's decision by the British Olympic Association to go to Moscow. They are Party chairman Lord Thorneycroft and Sir Frederick Bennett, Tory MP for Torbay.

Thorneycroft is chairman of Trust House Fortes, and one of its subsidiaries [Lillywhites—Cantabrian] has a £150,000 contract for the supply of hurdles, discs and other equipment for the Olympics.

And Sir Frederick is Parliamentary consultant for the merchant bank, Kleinwort Benson. This bank last year arranged a £4 million loan for Swansea City Council. Half the money for this loan came from the Moscow Narodny Bank, which is owned by the Russian government.

What a so-called socialist government is doing operating just like a capitalist firm is perhaps a question that the apologists for the Stalinist tyranny in Russia can explain.

But what hypocrisy from the leading Tories. When the 'Sunday Times' and 'Daily Mirror' reported the story last week they were unable to get any explanation from Thorneycroft or Bennett on why they believe that business contracts should remain but sporting contacts be broken.

Fellow-diners

Are you free on June 19th? Then how about going along to a dinner at Lancaster House? You'll be in good company. The chairmen of the top 100 companies and banks have been invited.

The occasion? To honour the memory of former Vice-President Hubert Humphrey, supporter of the American imperialist war in Vietnam. It may come as no surprise to our readers to hear that fellow Vietnam war hawk, Henry Kissinger, is to address the meeting. But what is Jim Callaghan going to say when he talks to the assembled capitalists?

He may not be alone though as the sole Labour Party member. For on the Hubert H Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs United Kingdom Committee is electricians' leader, Frank Chapple. Also on the committee are chairman Lord Sieff of Marks and Spencers, Sir Hector Laing, chairman of United Biscuits, and Lord Armstrong, chairman of Midland Bank.

Chapple must be getting quite used to the company of big business. For not only is he the Treasurer of the Labour Trade Union Press Service [which is funded by NATO], but also on the council of management of the Working Together Campaign. This class-collaborationist body is funded by Marks and Spencers, Taylor Woodrow, major financial supporters of the Tory Party.

Can we expect an investigation into these activities, or will Labour's right wing be too busy wining and dining on the 19th?

FINAL DEFEAT FOR CORRIE BILL

By Margaret Creear

The withdrawal of the Corrie Abortion Bill is an important setback for the Tory backwoodsmen who want to see women's lives totally subordinated to the bringing up of children, no matter under what conditions. They have undoubtedly been disturbed by signs of militancy amongst women.

Their demands for decent pay, the right to work, for state facilities such as nurseries, for further education are being met by redundancies and cuts in public expenditure.

The Corrie Bill was one of many moves to keep as many burdens as possible on the shoulders of working class women so saving the capitalists money. At the same time, they hoped by driving women back into their homes, they could use the isolation and their control of the media to play on the fears and insecurity of housewives to turn them against the labour movement.

The Bill was not an attempt



Part of the 40,000-strong TUC march against the Corrie Bill

Photo: Militant.

to "iron out a few abuses" but trying to turn the clock back to before the 1967 Abortion Act.

There is no doubt that the Corrie Bill ran into much wider opposition than it expected with the 40,000 strong TUC demonstration and the rallies and lobby of Parliament. The Tories succeeded in mobilising the labour movement in opposition by putting the Bill in its correct context—not of mor-

ality but of attacks on the working class.

Of course all socialists would like to see abortions reduced to a minimum. Abortion is a safety net to help women who fall victim to capitalism in other ways—bad housing, low wages, inadequate family planning services and the lack of sex education in schools, particularly in the run-down areas of the Inner City where the

other problems accumulate.

To working class women, abortion is only "the right to choose" in so far as it's a last choice when every other alternative is closed. To campaign for a real right to choose means a struggle against capitalism which imposes such low standards of living and welfare on the working class that women are compelled to take such a decision.

Reviews

DOING THE PARTICIPATION WALTZ

Written in conjunction with the Lucas Aerospace Combine Shop Stewards' Committee, Broadside Mobile Workers' Theatre's play, 'The Participation Waltz', is excellent socialist theatre.

The play begins in a humorous way, with the Labour government represented as a hospital to which ailing businesses go for hand-

outs, or even for nationalisation in the case of the utterly bankrupt! It's a humorous play throughout, although it never loses sight of the facts or the message it's trying to portray.

Based upon the alternative plan drawn up by Lucas workers when threatened with redundancies, 'The Participation Waltz' deals with the role of government and

management's divide and rule tactics.

At the brief discussion which followed the performance I saw an appeal was made to join the Labour Party and fight for socialism. That is the only way to end the participation farce, and with real workers' control and management implement the Lucas workers' "alternative plan".

By Andy Zaple

(East Nottingham LPYS)

South Africa

Vital questions face the revolutionary movement in South Africa in the struggle to end apartheid and build a society free of exploitation by class or colour.

Are black workers the key class in this struggle? What should be the relationship between the workers' movement and the struggle of all the oppressed? What are the links between the struggles for national liberation, democracy and socialism? How does the revolutionary armed struggle relate to that of the working class?

All these and others are dealt with in a recent pamphlet from prominent activists in the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU). Entitled 'The Workers' Movement, SACTU and the ANC—a struggle for Marxist policies', the pamphlet looks at the present situation in South Africa and argues a Marxist case for the way to achieve a socialist society.

Like many Marxist pamphlets, this one arose from controversy within the workers' movement. When the 'authors' were prevented from putting their case within SACTU, they produced this document and have since been suspended from the ANC for publishing it.

Anyone who wishes to understand the problems facing the revolution in South Africa is well advised to read this pamphlet.

MINING THE MILLIONS

Who runs Labour government foreign policy? The Ministers or big business interests? Anyone in doubt should read the recently published 'The Rössing File: the inside story of Britain's secret contract for Namibian Uranium.'

It tells of how the large British multi-national, Rio Tinto Zinc, working with the civil service persuaded successive governments, Labour, Tory, and Labour again, to purchase uranium mined from South-African occupied

By Bob Labi

Namibia. It tells of the awful health hazards and living conditions facing the African miners and how the last Labour government ignored representations against the uranium contract from the Namibian liberation movement, SWAPO.

RTZ is virtually Roy Jenkins' centre party come true. On its board until becoming

Foreign Secretary was Lord Carrington. It has also had as directors Lord Greene, former general secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen, Lord Shackleton, ex-Labour Foreign Office Minister and Lord Byers, ex-Liberal leader of the House of Lords. Its funds total over £3,000m with profits in 1978 of £284m.

The last Labour government put RTZ's interests above those of working people in Namibia and Britain, and if anyone still doubts it, read this pamphlet.

'The CIA and the Labour Movement'
by F Hirsch
and R Fletcher
price 50p (+ 10p p&p)
from World Books
1 Mentmore Terrace
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'The Workers' Movement, SACTU and the ANC—a struggle for Marxist policies'
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price 70p (incl. p&p)

'The Rössing File'
by Alun Roberts
Available from CANUC
188 N Gower Street
London N.W.1.
price 60p (inc p&p)



INDIA

SOUTH AFRICA

EL SALVADOR

AS DAILY ATROCITIES OCCUR

'THE MOST DOWNTRODDEN RISE TO THEIR FEET'

By Roger Silverman

What a disgusting spectacle when this month Delhi police baton-charged a peaceful demonstration of blind and disabled people trying to present their grievances to the new Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi.

Only a few days later, police wielding truncheons beat up a group of lawyers visiting their clients in prison, thus provoking a strike of lawyers. But these acts of over-zealous policemen anxious to impress the old witch of the emergency have given the world only a glimpse into the hellish carnage of Indian society today.

In teeming, poverty-racked Bihar, India's second most populated state, one family in three is armed. Arms have poured in since the Bangladesh war and there are an estimated 300 illegal gunsmiths working full-time to supply the instruments for what amounts to civil war.

The biggest state, Uttar Pradesh, has been convulsed in a "caste war" second only to Bihar. Here are some examples of the atrocities committed even within the last few weeks.

Narainpur is a village in Uttar Pradesh comprising 400 families, of which 300 are Moslem or harijan ("untouchables") One day a grandmother was run over by a local bus. After some days' negotiation, the villagers seized the bus as security until compensation was paid for her orphans.

On discovering that the police had been given the money and had omitted to hand it over, they went to the station to protest. They were locked up and savagely beaten. A posse of police then descended on the village, beat up and humiliated the men, plucked out their hair and beards, forced sons to urinate into their fathers' mouths, raped all the women and stripped the village bare of every article of cash, jewellery and goods.

When this abomination—a common feature of life in the Indian countryside—gained unexpected publicity, the state government hurriedly paid 35,000 Rupees in compensation. But even that has been pocketed by middlemen and has not reached the villagers!

Ten days later, when inhabitants of another UP village, Nagla Lodha, went to the police station to complain of their collusion with local bandits, they too were arrested and beaten up, and their village received similar treatment. At about the same time, in another UP village, Kheri, a young midwife was paraded naked as a penalty for resisting the police chief's advances. Ten days after that,

in Narwal four men were tortured and flogged until their blood was running, one of them to death.

Around the same time, in Parasbigha in Bihar, 150 gangsters hired by local landlords surrounded the village, set alight its forty households, and opened gunfire on their inhabitants (all landless labourers) as they tried to escape from the conflagration. According to the survivors, at least 70 people were either shot dead or thrown back into the fire. Children were tossed screaming into the flames.

A reporter commented: "The stench of human flesh is thick in the air." This took place within 30 miles of the state capital. Days later, in the neighbouring villages of Dohia and Santhra, there was a violent revenge.

Soon afterwards another village, Pipra, was devastated in a police attack on harijans. In Dhoki, Maharashtra, 112 men, women and children of a nomadic tribe were murdered by 400 assassins armed with sickles, iron bars and clubs.

These horrific events all took place in January and February 1980. They were preceded by massacres described in previous articles. In Maharashtra last year, after a harmless suggestion that the University should be named after the harijan leader Ambedkar, thousands of harijans were slaughtered in the resulting caste riots, systematically incited by unscrupulous politicians of the Janata and Lok Dal parties

which held power at the centre.

Thousands were killed also in communal pogroms between Hindus and Muslims in the ghettos of the cities. Hundreds at least of striking workers were slaughtered. Mrs Gandhi has eagerly seized hold of the excuse to dissolve the state governments and cash in on these crimes in order to consolidate her recent victory.

Nothing is said about similar outrages perpetrated during her last period of office. But the harijans (or dalits)—at least 100 million strong—have risen to their feet.

Today they have wiped out the stigma of generations of humiliation. Never again will social relations remain the same. Many urbane intellectuals have wept crocodile tears for the victims, but every one of these crimes has been the frightened response of the rich to the new and unfamiliar mood of defiance among the poor.

The attack on the Parasbigha villagers was a reprisal for the beheading last October of their murderous landlord oppressor. Other incidents were brought about by the brave protests of harijans at police corruption.

The militancy of the working class, amply described in previous articles, has spread to the entire working population: to the downtrodden landless labourers, and to the lawyers, doctors and stockbrokers' clerks. The sadists of Narainpur and Delhi are not a true reflection of the ordinary



She lost her husband when gangsters came to Parasbigha to attack landless labourers

working police especially in the towns.

Last year the police struck in their millions and mounted a heroic armed picket against army strike-breakers. To restore their honour, let us quote from a newspaper report of 3 February, from the major port of Cochin:

"Police constables and head constables in their thousands today walked through the thoroughfares of the city shouting 'Workers,

teachers, students and policemen unite! We will not allow ourselves to be slaves any more!'"

What eloquent testimony to the revolutionary potential in the world's biggest capitalist country! And what a challenge to Mrs Gandhi struggling in vain to erect a new military-police dictatorship on the strength of her hollow electoral victory of two months ago.

Serious divisions within South African ruling party

Whilst much of world attention has been focused on developments in Zimbabwe, political crisis has broken out within the South African ruling party.

Last month the governing Nationalist Party nearly split on what strategy to adopt to contain the growing revolt of African workers. Prime Minister Botha and the 'verligte' wing of the party want to offer some token concessions, whilst strengthening the role of the military in the government.

The 'verkrampste' wing of the party headed by Truernicht, the party boss in the most populous state of the Transvaal, want no concessions.

The split is not about the fundamentals of apartheid. Both wings wish to retain the vicious discrimination against blacks. But there is a

By Jim Chrystie

wings of some privileges gained by white workers, in order to form an 'understanding' with sections of the African middle-class. Truernicht wishes to see no movements in this direction, and supported by reactionary sections of white workers and farmers has fought to retain all racial privileges.

The difference between the two wings, which has existed for many years, came to the surface on an apparently minor issue. On whether schoolboys of 'mixed race' [coloureds] should be allowed to participate in a school rugby tournament.

Botha said yes, Truernicht no. In the end after much huffing and puffing peace was restored, and a compromise patched up.



African workers now threaten to throw off their chains

What had escalated the stakes on this was not the male African's almost religious fervour for rugby, but the election result in Zimbabwe. The victory for ZANU [PF] was a major shock and setback for the South African ruling-class. They had poured money and material aid into Muzorewa's electoral coffers.

All to no avail. "Black Africa has now advanced to the Limpopo" [South Africa's border with Zimbabwe], proclaimed one white Nationalist newspaper. It was a shattering defeat for the vicious South African ruling-class.

And Mugabe's victory was

greeted by widespread enthusiasm in the black townships of South Africa. "Tremendous" declared moderate Bishop Tuta, and promptly had his passport confiscated for his pains. But repression cannot stem the tide of revolution.

At the end of February, the South African government released its official report on the Soweto uprising of 1976. It stated that nothing had changed to prevent more uprisings [see 'Militant' 7 March].

'The Times' editorial commented on the Soweto findings: "South Africans, however many concessions they may make to delay that ultimate issue [i.e. one man, one vote], must eventually face it" [1st March].

But the dilemma facing capitalism in South Africa is that neither repression nor concessions can prevent a revolution led by the black working-class. And black workers will not stop at getting rid of racial discrimination, but as an integrated part of their national move against the capitalist basis of apartheid and take over the big monopolies.

The democratic road is also the socialist road. It is a nightmare future for imperialism as it tries to stem the exploding revolution in Southern Africa.

THE MURDER OF AN ARCHBISHOP

There can be little doubt about who was responsible for the barbaric killing of San Salvador's Archbishop Romero last week. The 14 families who control the land, finance and the state hated the way Romero reflected the opposition of working people to the junta.

Romero had declared the "common enemy of our people is the oligarchy—that is the 14 families—increasingly insatiable, and to whom I shout this warning: open your hands, give your rings, because the time will come when you will have your hands cut off."

He denounced "the national and foreign-owned industrial companies [who] base their ability to compete on the international market

on starvation wages. It explains the all-out opposition to any kind of reform or union organising designed to improve our living standards" ['Morning Star', 26 March].

Now Romero has been silenced. But the virtual civil war raging in El Salvador continues. The murderous shooting at Romero's funeral will not crush the revolt of the people.

Remembering Nicaragua US imperialism is fearful of what is happening in the region. Its past policy of all-out repression has failed. And the attempts by the local ruling class in El Salvador to stem the tide will also result in failure. The struggle for a fair and decent society will continue.

(More international reports on page 11)

MILITANT INTERNATIONAL REVIEW

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19th LPYS CONFERENCE 1980

YOUTH LEADS THE WAY

By Phil Frampton (past national chairman
and LPYS)
and Tony Aitman (past national
vice-chairman LPYS)

This year's conference will mark ten years of 'Militant' supporters having a majority on the Labour Party Young Socialists' National Committee.

When the Marxists first won a majority in 1970, they took over from a leadership whose politics had reduced the LPYS to a shell. 'Militant' supporters had the task of turning the LPYS from a middle-class debating chamber—a breeding ground for career seekers—into the political arm of working class youth.

The LPYS had been in existence ten years. Though it had begun as a leftward moving body, by 1967, because of the lunacy of the sects, it was controlled by the right wing. Significantly, it was Reg Underhill who engineered a rigid bureaucratic control over the LPYS during the 1964-70 Labour government.

The National Committee members were appointed by the Regional Labour Party Executives. Delegates to the LPYS National Conference were appointed by the constituency parties. The LPYS paper was run by the party officials, and the youth section had no representative on the party's National Executive. Even the area federations were closed down.

The Labour government's policies of attacking the trade union movement, wage restraint and abandoning promised social reforms led to massive disaffection amongst working class activists. Seeing

no alternative road, members left the party in their thousands.

The LPYS leadership offered no real alternative and membership dwindled. Only 500 people attended the 1969 national conference. In 1970 there were only 126 delegates. The LPYS was on the point of strangulation.

The ultra-left, moreover, declared the Labour Party to be 'dead', and historically finished. Only the 'Militant' supporters had confidence in the working class movement and its youth. Against the taunts of the sects and the manoeuvres of the right wing, Marxists advanced a programme for the LPYS based on a Youth Charter, which incorporated the experiences of the apprentices' strikes of the 'sixties.

The Charter has just been reprinted, but it is now the property of an LPYS based on working class youth. LPYS members can now take their ideas to other activists, with confidence.

No other political grouping can boast the role we have played in the recent firemen's, bakers', and steel strikes as a political auxiliary, being called on all over the country to aid the pickets.

This year's AUEW Youth conference supported the call for a socialist programme as advanced by 'Militant' supporter, Pete Skerrett, chairman of Coventry AUEW Junior Workers' Committee.

Similarly at the Metal Mechanics' youth conference. In Strathclyde there is even an ad-hoc YS branch in ASLEF—workplace YS groups will



Part of the 5,000 strong anti-Tory demonstration on February 2nd

become increasingly common in the future. In addition, the LPYS have met with the youth of Coventry AUEW, and Yorkshire, Wales, Kent and Nottingham National Union of Miners for joint schools. A special coach for NUM members was sent from Yorkshire to the recent national demonstration.

Another condition for the development of the LPYS has been democracy. Without democracy, with full and free discussion of ideas and differences, a youth organisation could not grow and respond to the needs of its members.

Aching for a viable youth movement and under pressure from the rank and file, the

right-wing NEC eventually conceded the return to democratic control for the LPYS in 1970. Immediately, Militant supporters won a majority of the leadership.

At the time, the precursors of the 'Clause 4' group (an amalgamation of 'Jenkinsites' and 'Tribunites') had 40% of the support on the National Committee. Why did they lose it? Because, as in previous years, reformism had nothing concrete to offer working-class youth. Dishonestly, they now imply that the structure of the LPYS does not allow for minorities. In 1976 these people were arguing for the retention of the current structure, convinced that they

could win a majority.

Three years later, in 1979, they had only 14% of the conference support.

But were any of their branches threatened with closure, were any of their supporters excluded from activity in the YS—as 'Militant' supporters were by the far from democratic 'Clause 4' leadership of the National Organisation of Labour Students?

No. On the contrary, the National Committee even initiated rights for minorities on the NC to put forward alternative documents. Their decline is due to their complete incapacity to present a strategy to win working

class youth to the struggle for socialism.

So now they, like the Tory press, take up the cry that 'Militant' supporters are 'authoritarian', 'sectarian', and the LPYS is 'boring'.

Few, however, have responded to the 'Clause 4' group's implied offer of adventure! The big words thrown accusingly at 'Militant' supporters are just a scurrilous substitute for any real attempt to answer 'Militant's' policies and ideas. We can only conclude that they have no confidence in their own ability to win support, such is the bank-

CONTINUED ON
PAGE EIGHT

Photo: MILITANT

YOUTH LEADS THE WAY

CONTINUED FROM
PAGE SEVEN

ruptcy of their politics.

What is 'exciting' for us is the prospect of a socialist Britain and our ability to play a part in this has been built on the basis of patient work and discussion.

From 1974-79, as a result of patient explanation concerning the likely consequences of the Labour government refusing to end the rule of big business, rather than the LPYS declining as in the late 'sixties, the LPYS grew in both its active membership and its standing in the movement. The Marxist majority, while supporting the struggles of workers who came into collision with the Labour government, pointed to the need for these workers to join the party and strengthen the fight for the socialist alternative.

Marxism has given backbone to the leftward movement of the party.

One of the consequences of the crisis of big business and the Labour government's failure to take decisive measures, was a rise in support for the National Front and racist ideas.

In 1974 the LPYS, as an example to the labour movement, called a national anti-racist march in Bradford. Despite fierce opposition from sections of the Labour Party NEC at that time, the 3,000 strong march was a great success. Since then the LPYS has been able to call a series of local demonstrations in Bristol, Cardiff, London, Leicester and elsewhere.

At all times, we pointed to the need for the labour movement to campaign actively on the issue and use the united strength of the trade unions and the political weight of the Labour Party to crush the fascist menace.

In 1976, a resolution to this effect was carried at the Labour Party national conference. The then representative of the LPYS on the NEC, Nick Bradley, successfully pressured the party to call a national demonstration which brought 30,000 people onto the streets of London.

Nick Bradley also played a major part in the Labour Party anti-fascist TV broadcast which exposed the real aim of the fascists to millions of workers. As we forecast, even a limited call from the Labour and TU leadership was sufficient to push back the NF in the factories and to arouse the anti-racist sympathy of youth expressed in the massive Anti-Nazi League carnivals.

The 1974-79 Labour government's problems illustrated the correctness of the Marxist analysis. In an era of world capitalist crises, there is no room for reformism. Any government which refuses to end big business rule is forced into counter-reforms against the working class.

Consequently, the Tories were returned to power in 1979. Nevertheless, during that election, as in 1974, the

Workers of the world unite!

"The scientific, technological and material developments of the last twenty-five years have given our generation the possibility of seeing mankind finally climbing out of poverty, ill health and drudgery into an era of plenty."

By John
Cantwell
(LPYS National
Committee)

In sharp contrast to the morbid forecasts of the despairing capitalists, the LPYS National Committee document, 'Workers of the World Unite!', presents an analysis of the unfolding world revolution and the gathering international momentum of workers' and peasants' struggles.

Despite the fantastic opportunities created by the phenomenal development of industry our planet is still racked with disease and famine, illiteracy and mass starvation.

One and a half billion people in the third world live in a state of absolute poverty. Every four years the world squanders one million million pounds on armaments. The cost of a single tank could provide 1,000 classrooms; a modern jet fighter could buy 40,000 village pharmacies.

The document points out that these conditions have developed during thirty years of unparalleled growth. What hope for the world's peoples now, when capitalism is entering a prolonged period of stagnation and decline?

The capitalist classes have no solution save at the expense of other capitalists and the exploited workers and peasants. As in the 1920s and 1930s, trade wars and class war are on the order of the day.

In the boom years, while capitalism was developing production and spreading itself around the world, moulding economies into a single web, the working class was also enormously strengthened and drawn together internationally. In the last decade we saw international strikes and action by dockers, seamen, car workers and rubber workers, and a day of action called by the European TUC.

International solidarity

International support for the British steelworkers' strike is a tremendous demonstration of this new cohesion and power. Work for the Chilean military junta and the South African apartheid regime has been blocked by British trade unionists.

This internationalism is not simply based on compassion, but the understanding that the strengthening of the working class in other countries aids one's own struggle. The

LPYS played a key role in selected constituencies with 'flying canvassers'. Throughout the country, LPYS members stood out as the most active workers during the election. In Glasgow Cathcart, arch-Tory Teddy Taylor put the blame for his defeat on the LPYS!

Far from 'frightening' people, as the press and the right wing claim, the LPYS have shown that bold socialist policies are immensely attractive to workers and young people. Many Labour supporters, bitterly disillusioned with the Labour government, were persuaded by the YS's clear socialist arguments that it was still vital to vote Labour and try to stop the Tories. More than that, many were recruited into the party and the YS to step up the fight for socialist policies.

More recently the national TV broadcast by the LPYS, while provoking a storm in the press, resulted in record numbers of applications to

join the Labour Party.

The appointment of Andy Bevan to the position of Labour Party National Youth Officer in 1977 was a major victory for the LPYS. For many years the Marxists have campaigned for the LPYS to decide who its own officials should be. Even though the NEC appointed Andy, it was a victory in that, as the LPYS National Chairman, he clearly represented the views of the majority in the LPYS.

After a huge witch-hunting campaign in the Tory press, and attempts by the right wing to block his appointment, the Labour Party conference confirmed Andy's position. It is the respect of Labour and trade union activists for the LPYS and the 'Militant' supporters which has defeated the aims of the enemies of the labour movement to behead the LPYS and drive it back to its former impotence.

"Without your financial and moral assistance, the



The Spanish Young Socialist Defence Campaign, started in 1972, raised the question of international solidarity in the British labour movement

multi-national fight for a 35-hour week is a living example of the potential power of international action.

The document contrasts this with the increased nationalism of the employers who, faced with economic crisis, move to protect themselves at the expense of foreign competitors. They exploit jingoistic nationalism and the reactionary call for import controls to divert workers from the real cause of their problems—capitalism.

The document argues that if the tiny working class of Russia in 1917 could smash the rule of capitalism and landlordism, there is hardly a country in the world today where the workers do not have the strength to take power. The only weakness in the workers' movement is the lack of a leadership with the

foresight and understanding of the Russian Bolsheviks.

A socialist revolution anywhere in western Europe would be an inspiration to the workers of the world, "a powerful beacon for the creation of a socialist Europe which in turn would lead to the breaking of the rule of capital on all the continents."

Combined with political revolution to overthrow the bureaucracies in Eastern Europe and the USSR, the face of the world would be transformed.

Basing ourselves on Marxist methods and analysis, this is the prospect that we can work towards with confidence.

COME TO THE 'MILITANT' MEETING IN LLANDUDNO

'Capitalist Crisis: The Socialist Way Out'
Hear: Ted Grant (Militant Political Editor), Terry Fields (NEC Fire Brigades Union), plus an international speaker.

Astra Theatre, Saturday 5 April, 7.30pm

clandestine conditions which we in Spain have to work in, would have made our tasks impossible." These were the words of Valentin Anton, a member of the executive of the Spanish socialist trade union, the UGT, when he addressed an LPYS meeting in 1976.

Inspired by the struggle of the Spanish workers against the regime of fascist General Franco, and understanding the importance of the Spanish revolution to the international struggle, the LPYS majority launched the Spanish Young Socialist Defence Campaign in 1972. Apart from thousands of pounds being raised and the holding of two national rallies, meetings were held in factories all over the country where the Spanish Young Socialists and trade unionists spoke to workers. As a result, the LPYS's ideas had a significant impact on the ideas of the Spanish YS and UGT.

The LPYS majority have

maintained an internationalist stance of solidarity and fraternal discussion. The support given to the Labour and Trade Union Group in Northern Ireland has been vindicated by the growth and now the development of its own youth section. In the 26 counties, the first national conference of the Irish Labour Youth in 1979 also gave support to this group and to the Marxist position on the North.

Nationally and internationally, the LPYS has fought for socialist ideas. Now the prospects have never been more favourable. In Britain the Tories are awakening young workers to the need to fight back and put an end to capitalism.

New LPYS branches are springing up all over the country. If the resources are put behind the LPYS then the Labour Party could have a mass youth organisation for the first time in its history. As it is, the LPYS is still given a

shoestring budget and has only two full-time workers.

With more full-time workers, the acceptance of the National Committee claim for a budget of £50,000, and permission for trade union organisations to affiliate to the LPYS, then we could rapidly complete the basis for building a mass LPYS.

When 'Militant' supporters first won the leadership of the LPYS we called a national demonstration of 900. A decade later, 5,000 turned out for the march against the Tories. The finest tribute to the 'old' Young Socialists who struggled to give the LPYS a socialist programme, respect in the working class movement, will be paid as in the next few years the LPYS takes up the task of leading the youth, both in their day-to-day struggles and in the fight for the socialist transformation of society.

S CONFERENCE 1980



The LPYS has fought the threat of racialism and fascism consistently. Here in February 1978 in a Birmingham demonstration against the Young National Front

Photo: Andrew Wiard (Report) (II)

FORWARD TO SOCIALISM IN THE '80s

By Kevin Ramage
(LPYS National Chairman)

Photo: Andrew Wiard (Report) (II)



Eric Heffer speaks at a Youth Campaign Against Unemployment meeting on the 35-hour week in 1978

Two and a half million unemployed in 1981; 3½ million by 1985. That is the forecast of the 'Cambridge Economic Policy Group'. It starkly underlines the urgency of the LPYS National Committee document 'Forward to socialism in the 1980s'.

The report predicts a massive 5% fall in economic output this year and a further 4% in 1981, if the Tories continue on their present course.

This would spell disaster for millions: redundancies, long-term unemployment, falling living standards and homelessness. South Wales, Clydeside and other areas would be reduced to industrial deserts.

This is the price the bosses are asking the working class, and youth in particular, to pay for their crisis.

The National Committee document, and conference resolutions such as 15, 17 and 19 show the burning need for the labour movement to organise a fighting campaign

against the Tories, armed with a clear socialist programme to break the stranglehold of the big conglomerate firms, the banks and financiers, over the economy and the lives of working people.

Resolutions 16 and 18 echo the 'Tribune' MPs' call for an 'alternative economic strategy'. Bedford LPYS calls for "meaningful trade union involvement in decision-making at every level of the economy" and "re-construction of the social services."

While any socialist would accept these sentiments, the resolution offers no explanation of how they can be achieved, and where the resources could be found. Instead it puts forward the demand for import controls, a demand now echoed by the Confederation of British Industry, and even some Tories.

The call for import controls implies that helping out the bosses will in some way serve a common national interest for British workers, attempting to pass the burden of unemployment onto workers in other countries. In reality, according to the 'Sunday Times', of jobs lost in 1970-75 less than 25% were due to "rising imports from non-third world countries"; over 50% were due to "rising productivity at home."

The many demands of the resolutions from Glasgow Kelvingrove (18) and Edinburgh Central (21) similarly become meaningless unless they are clearly linked to the need for a socialist plan of production as the only way of guaranteeing reforms and defending past gains of the labour movement.

As the National Committee document points out, "A choice faces every Labour

government—to transform society or be forced to operate within the framework of the bosses' system..."

"If Labour fights on clear socialist policies it will be entirely possible to win the support of the middle class and 'Tory' trade unionists, for the ending of the domination of big business and the banks over the economy."

"It is only by taking over these top 200 or so firms, nationalising them, with compensation on the basis of proven need only, under democratic workers' control and management, that a Labour government will be able to control the economy. Then and only then will it be possible to plan according to needs and not private profits." (Page 8)

In the battles against the Tories which lie ahead, it is vital that a clear socialist programme is taken up to defend working class living standards as outlined in the document and resolutions from Liverpool Kirkdale and Vauxhall LPYS. Any policy which falls short of this is playing into the Tories' hands.

Bring down the Tories

There is only one way to fight Tory cuts—by confronting the government with the organised power of the labour movement. The Barking amendment (to resolution 10) proposes rate rises as an acceptable measure to "buy time". Buy time for what?

A massive campaign to mobilise working class opposition to the cuts cannot be postponed if Labour councils are to defend the workers they represent. If workers in Labour-controlled authorities are asked to fork out increased rates and rents, and face cuts in services as well, as

in Lambeth, they will inevitably blame Labour councils for this attack on their living standards.

Resolution 11 from Vauxhall outlines what is needed: "a fighting campaign organised in every area, initiated by Labour councils, Labour groups and local CLPs. This should include: mobilising the trade unions against the cuts; a series of public meetings, street meetings, 'days of action' and workplace meetings; local demonstrations and industrial action against the cuts."

There was a 12% swing against the Tories in the recent Southend by-election—after only ten months in office. Regional one-day general strikes have already taken place in Corby and South Wales, in protest at the dismantling of industry.

The TUC's 'day of action' on 14th May must be converted into a national one-day general strike, mobilising the whole labour movement against Thatcher's big business government.

'The Times', the mouthpiece of the British bosses, summed up our prospects under capitalism in an editorial (26.2.80): "In the 1980s Britain is a country where the wealth-creating base of the economy is shrinking rapidly." And the rights and standards of the working class are to shrink even faster—with the youngest and weakest hit first.

The alternative is the struggle to bring down the Tories and take over the monopolies to make possible a socialist plan of production which could utilise the resources, technology, and initiative in society that are stifled and wasted under capitalism.

YOUNG SOCIALISTS IN ACTION

WEST MIDLANDS CONFERENCE

As every area is hit by capitalist crisis, so does the socialist programme of Labour's youth clearly become the only way out. This was evident at the recent West Midlands regional conference of the LPYS.

Gerry Hill from Nuneaton LPYS quoted from their own branch's experience. "We were set up six weeks ago with five members. Since then we've been leafletting and canvassing the dole queues. In 45 minutes we got 14 people signed up for the Labour Party. The LPYS has now trebled in size."

The conference was the first in the region to last a whole weekend. A total of over 90 delegates and visitors reaffirmed support for the ideas and programme of 'Militant', with Yasmin Barry a 'Militant' supporter, being re-elected to the National Committee.

The National Youth Officer Andy Bevan pointed out how Thatcher's attacks had led to

By Steve Martin

(Stoke South LPYS)

a changed mood amongst working class youth towards politics.

Over 2,000 written membership applications and enquiries, plus hundreds more by phone, were the result of just ten minutes' TV exposure in the youth broadcast. No other party political broadcast has got such a response for Labour.

The recent press campaign against 'Militant' has led to demands that the LPYS should be 'looked at'. Andy pointed out that three times before, Lord Underhill had

'looked at' Labour's youth organisation—in 1938, 1955 and 1964. Each time he had shut it down!

Delegate after delegate would have convinced any Labour Party member that closure of the YS today would be a crime, with successes in recruitment as in Nuneaton, and the elan and campaigning spirit of the LPYS in all areas.

During the conference, the supporters of the mis-named 'Campaign for YS democracy' showed that they were neither democratic, nor interested in the political debates of the conference. Over the weekend only one of them made a political contribution, and several showed their real contempt for the conference by turning up half way through the second day, just to be present for the votes for positions, having missed all the political debate.

The document presented to conference by 'Militant' supporters on the Regional Youth Committee showed what the LPYS is fighting in the West Midlands.

"In the 1980s our region will be a depressed area. There are at present 135,331

unemployed (and 12,384 jobs only) in the West Midlands. The new towns like Droitwich, Redditch and Telford, built to take the Birmingham overspill, are becoming ghost towns.

"In Telford 2,132 are out of work with just 141 vacancies to go round. Even so-called prosperous areas are now not so prosperous. Shrewsbury for instance has 1,815 unemployed and only 394 vacancies.

"Telford is the unfinished town; the money ran out with the economic decline, the jobs never came. What will Wolverhampton or Coventry look like in another ten years? The inner city areas are rapidly declining. In Handsworth six out of ten black youth are unemployed."

The West Midlands has also seen from bitter experience the effect (or lack of effect) of 'planning agreements'. The last Labour government 'donated' £130 million to the Chrysler Corporation in 1975, when they threatened closure.

In return they signed the only planning agreement achieved. Three years later, Peugeot Citroen had taken

over the Stoke and Ryton factories in Coventry.

The only real way of planning Rootes cum Chrysler cum Talbot is, as the LPYS argued in 1975, by nationalisation under workers' control and management. The same applies to any capitalist industry. The labour movement will only be able to really plan what it actually owns.

Our task now, as Andy outlined at the start of the conference, is to turn outwards with public meetings, days of action, leafletting drives, approaching the trade unions and schools, to draw behind our banner the tens of thousands of working class youth who are searching for a socialist alternative to Thatcherism and the crisis of capitalism.

LPYS round-up

Labour Party Young Socialists branches up and down the country have rarely been so busy. Every aspect of the workers' struggle in Britain and internationally have been discussed and campaigned upon.

LPYS members in Sheffield held an extremely important joint meeting on March 18th with members of the ZANU (PF) UK section. A very comradely discussion ensued on the way to fight what Robert Mugabe has called the "octopus of imperialism."

Members of both ZANU and the LPYS hope that it can be the beginning of a series of discussions on the situation in Zimbabwe.

Earlier in the month, LPYS branches in Hillingdon, West London, organised a "Gig and disco" attended by about 300 young people.

With four local bands, their own taped disco, cheap refreshments and plenty of leaflets and posters to encourage people to join the LPYS, this highly successful event was part of a campaign started at the end of last year to highlight the effects of the Tories' cuts in leisure facilities.

Hillingdon's Tory council have viciously slashed youth spending since they took office. This counterblast to big business controlled entertainment has been very successful, and raised a large number of important political questions.

Whatever your activity—meetings, recruitment drives, campaigns or social activities—spread the good news, send a report to 'Militant'.

PORT TALBOT

The workers of Port Talbot in South Wales, a town built round the steelworks, know more than most what Toryism means. Tory policy means the destruction of the steel industry and the resistance of the very modest pay demands of the steelworkers throughout the months of the steel strike.

Aberavon constituency includes Port Talbot. Since last month there has been an LPYS branch in the constituency. They recently held their biggest meeting when over 70 young people from the Port Talbot area heard Andy Bevan, the Labour Party national youth officer, speak on 'The Thatcher government and the fight for socialism'.

Chris Burns, LPYS NC member for Wales, opened the meeting by pointing out the anti-working class policies of this government since they came to power. The rich had become richer and the poor poorer.

It was vital that young workers joined the LPYS and organise politically to fight against the Tories.

Andy Bevan had previously spoken live on the local Swansea Sound radio, to explain that the so-called moles in the party were putting their ideas forward on the basis of discussion and debate. The clarity of these ideas was evident from the meeting.

"The moderate claim of 20% by the steelworkers must be met by the BSC," said Andy. "The steelmen could then with the help of all working class people fight to stop the closures of steelworks and cutbacks in steel production."

The main objective is to build a united socialist battle against the Tory government. For workers in South Wales and elsewhere, the Tories are Public Enemy Number One.

Once the Tories are brought down though, the return of a Labour government could only be of real benefit to working people if they were committed to socialist policies, based on a socialist plan of production. As long as investment and job creation depend on the profit motive, there is no future for the people of Britain.

After a good discussion, five people joined the Labour Party straight away and many others said they wanted to come along to meetings and find out more about the Young Socialists.

By Peter Harris

(Aberavon LPYS)

FIGHTING THE FASCISTS

Over 50 LPYS members and Militant supporters formed one of the largest contingents on a 500-strong rally against an attempted march by the "Scottish Loyalists"—in reality the National Front.

In Glasgow—a city with a large Irish population, the NF are trying to whip up anti-Catholic hysteria. With the threat of a counter-march taking place, the police invoked the Public Order Act, banning ALL marches for one month.

When the NF attempted to march, 58 of them were arrested. However, the labour movement must beware! The use of the Public Order Act is a double edged sword.

In the future—as it has in the past—it will be used to ban marches of the labour movement. Indeed, the "Loyalists" have announced their intention to march on April 26th when the ban ends. A re-invoking of the Act would affect all May Day marches and demonstrations.

The Labour-controlled Strathclyde Regional Council must refuse the NF or "Loyalists" use of council property and public spaces for any rallies.

The labour movement must rely on a mobilisation of its strength to crush the NF

NOTTINGHAM

At the last meeting of the North Nottingham Labour Party General Management Committee Executive a request was made for financial assistance to help Young Socialists in the party attend the LPYS Annual Conference.

One right wing Labour Councillor opposed this request with an outburst against the YS and 'Militant'

in which he said that all the YS members were in the 'Militant' tendency and they should get any money they need from the same places that finance 'Militant'.

I don't know how the comrade had the cheek. I've only been a Labour Party member for a couple of years, but I had no hesitation in saying that if all members of the Labour Party worked as

hard as I've seen the YS work then we'd have a damn sight better Labour Party.

My view was given wide support in the meeting, and I'm pleased to say that we agreed to give the YS a donation of £25.

By Roy Bennett
(AUEW)

LPYS members 'invade' Tory Party Headquarters on their February 2nd demonstration

Photo: MILITANT



US PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN

UNEASY MOOD AMONG VOTERS

It's a fascinating presidential campaign. Despite Kennedy's victories in New York and Connecticut, it still seems likely that Carter will be the Democratic candidate for the Presidency.

Facing him for the other main capitalist party will probably be the Republican, Reagan. But there is still no overall consensus emerging.

In Britain, the political parties designate one candidate to run for office in each district and therefore he has no competition to contend with within each party, provided they have the money to spend, and the required number of valid signatures of registered voters on their petition to enter.

This means that British election campaigns last only a matter of weeks, while the American campaign goes on for a year, with vast amounts of money spent on the caucuses and primary elections in the various states to eliminate weaker competition. The national convention of the party takes place much later on to select the one candidate who will run in the national election in November.

In this election year, the primaries are providing professional analysts and observers of the political scene an opportunity to study the electorate and their voting behaviour because they have been peculiarly silent thus so far in the face of great domestic problems. Interviewing local populations in the different states, they find the people to be disillusioned, restless, and very volatile because they are deeply troubled.

Voter restiveness shows up in the voting behaviour of the independents who are coming out to vote in the primaries. Four years ago in the last Presidential Primaries they did not bother to come out at all. Now they are coming out in big numbers, surprising the pollsters.

Both parties are in disarray. The Republican Party is more conservative now than it was ten and fifteen years ago, but it contains a moderate wing which is challenging the conservative wing which predominates the party.

John Anderson of Illinois is running for the presidency on a platform of 'honest principle'. He addresses the issues of the day, which other candidates avoid like the plague, and is attracting many voters, especially in the New England states. Democrats disgusted with Carter are crossing party lines to vote for him in the primaries.

Another Republican contender who shows strength is George Bush, former director of the CIA, who wants a strong aggressive America and a strong CIA unfettered by legislation against secrecy.

These two men are the main contenders for the arch-conservative Ronald Reagan, former movie star and gover-

nor of California. He is the real head of the conservative wing of the party and this is by far the predominate group, so it is expected that Reagan will win the nomination.

The Democratic Party is also disordered. A fierce rivalry exists between the incumbent Jimmy Carter and the contender, Senator Edward Kennedy. Unable to control a rapidly deteriorating economic situation at home, Carter has manipulated foreign policy towards Iran and Afghanistan to keep himself in the political limelight with the electorate by appealing to their deep patriotic emotions.

It is being predicted that when the American hostages in Iran are finally released and come home, there will be the biggest outpouring of public emotional fever here that this country has ever seen. It will be grist for Carter's political mill.

But once the ballyhoo has died down, and the ticker tape and streamers and the confetti have been swept up, the cold and chilling realities of the day will take over, and Carter will be in trouble.

He has consistently refused to enter into a campaign debate with Kennedy on domestic issues, stating that he cannot do so with the hostages still being held. He looks to that glorious homecoming to blind the people to the fact that he is giving them circuses instead of bread.

Meanwhile, inflation has zoomed to the 20 per cent level, bank loan interest rates are now at 17½ per cent and will go higher making it impossible to buy a house or a car, and creating conditions for bank failures (which are causing sleepless nights for officers of the banks, according to the "Wall Street Journal").

All social services are being cut deeply, but cuts on the one trillion dollar five year plan for the Pentagon's military hardware and nuclear missiles is taboo. The Defence Department (read War Department) is sacrosanct.

But the disabled have had their social security benefits slashed, and they contemplate cutting social security cheques to the elderly or tapping them. Some years ago, while working for a New York congresswoman, I received weekly reports from social agencies in the city.

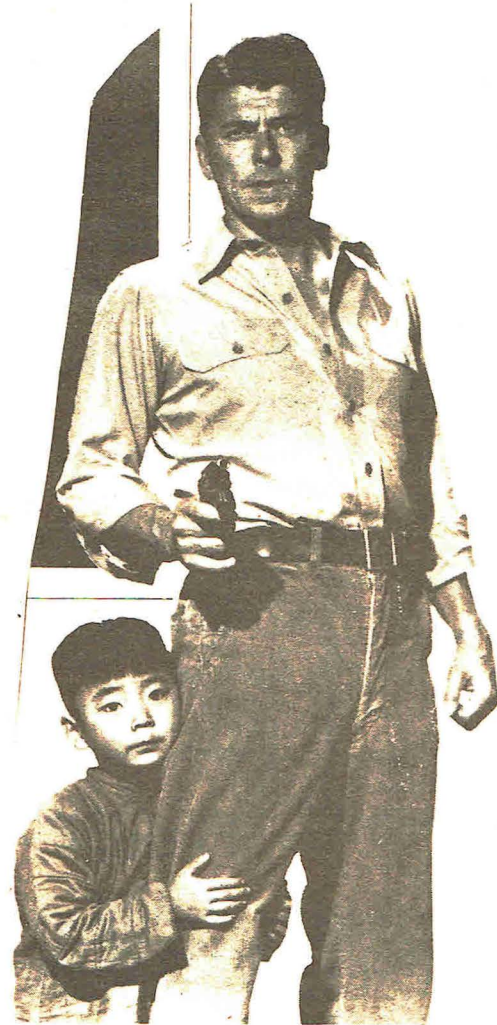
One of these from Community Services stated "Senior citizens unable to cope with rising prices and higher rents are placing their heads in their ovens and turning on the gas jets".

As the foreign issues cool off, the people will begin to focus in on the troubles which will begin to hit them hard, and at this point Carter will find hundreds of thousands of people, old and young, encamped at his doorstep in the White House in Washington.

Neither of our two parties can look forward to a future in the United States, since they cannot meet the needs of the people.

By Betty Traun in New York

In the absence of an independent Labour Party, the two main presidential candidates will probably be capitalist representatives Carter [below] and Reagan [right]



People's National Party executive reject IMF

The crisis engulfing the Jamaican economy and society continues. Recent articles in 'Militant' reported how the ruling People's National Party have called for an election within the next year to decide on whether the economy can continue to be dominated by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

At the special PNP conference, which I attended in January, a resolution was passed opposing the IMF and calling upon the government to present alternative economic policies. Subsequently Prime Minister Manley announced the holding of an election.

And in the last week the

PNP executive has decided to cease all negotiations with the IMF on aid for the island's battered economy. This resulted in the resignation of the finance minister, Eric Bell, who argued for an interim agreement with the IMF until the election.

The PNP executive however decided to reject the IMF and seek alternative support and an economic strategy independent of the fund. It said it had concluded that the IMF's loan programme would create more hardships than necessary for Jamaicans without aiding the development of a viable economy.

It is now vital that a clear

socialist alternative to the domination of international capital is created by Jamaican working people. Adherence to the IMF had seen the biggest assault on living standards since the 1930s.

Within a year real wages were cut by 35%, unemployment rose to 250,000 (out of a total population of 2 million), and inflation went up by 49%. But even before the IMF loan, Gross Domestic Product had been in decline for three years. It is the whole stranglehold of international capital, and not just the IMF, which is to blame for Jamaica's economic troubles.

It is essential that the major

industries, such as bauxite, are taken into public ownership under workers control and management, so that a socialist alternative can be begun. Linking up with the growing revolution sweeping the Caribbean and Central America, and the international labour movement, such an approach would not be left in isolation. A Socialist Federation of the area could come into being as a first step to breaking the political and economic dominance of international capital.

By Bob Lee
(Secretary, PNP
Youth, UK)

POLISH BUREAUCRACY MOVE AGAINST TRADE UNION ACTIVIST

In a desperate attempt to curb the growing discontent with its rule, the Polish bureaucracy last month imprisoned one of the main dissidents, Edmund Zadrozynski.

He was a spokesman for the Charter of Workers' Rights. As 'Militant' reported [4, 11 January, 29 February] this Charter demanded basic political and economic rights.

Signed publicly by over 100 worker activists it called for wages to rise in line with the cost of living, a minimum living wage and a 40-hour week without a reduction in wages. It demanded an end

for privileges for the bureaucrats, denouncing the fact that "social inequalities and injustices were becoming more profound."

What scared the Polish Stalinist bureaucracy was that these workers saw that they had to rely solely on their own strength.

The Charter recognised: "Only independent trade unions having support among the workers whom they represent, have any chance of opposing the authorities. Only they will represent a force with which the authorities must reckon and with

which they can deal on equal terms."

Demanding "the workers' fundamental right of defence, the right to strike," the Charter proclaimed, "If we ourselves do not now make a start at defending our own interests, our situation will go from bad to worse."

For being a spokesman for the Charter, Zadrozynski has been picked out by the bureaucracy. They trumped up burglary charges against him and had him jailed for three years.

But it will not crush the protest movement. In the past

when people in Zadrozynski's home town of Grudziadz had complaints about food shortages etc. 876 people sent a letter to Poland's President. And they demanded that any reply be sent to Zadrozynski and not to the local deputy.

The imprisonment of Zadrozynski will not stop this process. Neither reform nor repression can end the desire of Polish working people to control their society. Only a political revolution to establish workers' democracy in an already nationalised economy offers a way forward.

LETTERS

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

Little Extras

Dear Comrades,

At a mother and baby class the other day, Thatcher and her policies were being discussed and one woman there really brought it home just who in our society are benefiting from this government.

She said that her uncle was an accountant on £25,000 a year, so you can imagine what his tax rebate was like. In fact it bought a third fur coat for his wife, paid for an extravagant silver wedding anniversary party and the rest is paying for their daughter's wedding and reception this summer.

It made us feel all very angry that our health, education and social services are being hacked away so that his privileged class can lash out on what to them are just "little extras".

Comradely,
Glenys Ingham
Deptford Labour Party

Feudal relics part two

Dear Comrades,

Waiting for a train in Leicester station recently. I was joined by a girl from the local polytechnic. "Look at all this lot," she said. "anyone would think the Queen was coming."

In fact she was. At the station there was a red carpet and expensive flower arrangements.

As the conversation went on I pointed out that just the reception at the Town Hall would cost more than what 3 nurses earned in a year.

"And that's not all", replied the girl. "think of all the production being lost by factories closing for the morning. And look at all the police!"

Comrades, it is a sick society which spends more on a reception for someone opening a hospital wing than on paying qualified nurses to staff it. The sooner we get rid of feudal relics like the monarchy and move towards a socialist society the better.

Yours fraternally,
Dave Buss
Leicester South LPYS



Who gained from last summer's budget—and this one?

Photo: Militant

Freedom of speech—but....

Dear Comrades,

Throughout the capitalist world, the bourgeois and their representatives boast about how their system provides the workers with the right of free speech.

Britain for them is a model of this kind of democracy, and throughout Britain, Hyde Park Corner is reputed to be the place where anyone can express their point of view.

And yet, at the recent TUC march against Thatcher, which started in Hyde Park no one was allowed to sell political newspapers in the park. Some comrades who tried were arrested, others were forced to sell outside in the street.

The police knew very well that the only papers on sale that day were left wing papers, and so this should be seen as a deliberate move to obstruct socialists from expressing their ideas. It shows how the police can interpret laws and bye laws to suit themselves.

If you sell papers on private property you can be moved on, if you sell in the street you can be arrested for causing an obstruction.

This shows the true hypocrisy of capitalism. You can say what you like so long as you don't knock the system!

Steve Waterfield
Newham South Labour Party

OUR HEALTH—A CASUALTY OF CAPITALISM

Dear Comrades,

The Court of Appeal, deciding against concerned parents from Sutton Coldfield, has ruled that the NHS is only obliged to do its best to help people. This meant that patients have no general right to expect "kidney machines, heart transplants, or pills" just because they needed them. [Times' 19/3/80].

This of course means nothing unless the Health Service's "best" falls behind what people actually need. This decision now officially states and sanctions what has been going on in the NHS for some time.

The papers have spoken of 1,000 kidney patients "being left to die" last year alone because of a lack of trained staff and equipment. 'The Times' [19/3/80] also revealed that up to 62,000 people had been permanently crippled or prematurely died because there was no national programme of screening for spinal disease scoliosis—whose symptoms don't show themselves until the disease is fairly advanced.

The screening can be done in about a minute. In other words a simple detection programme was beyond the resources of the country!

People are the casualties of capitalism—the chase for

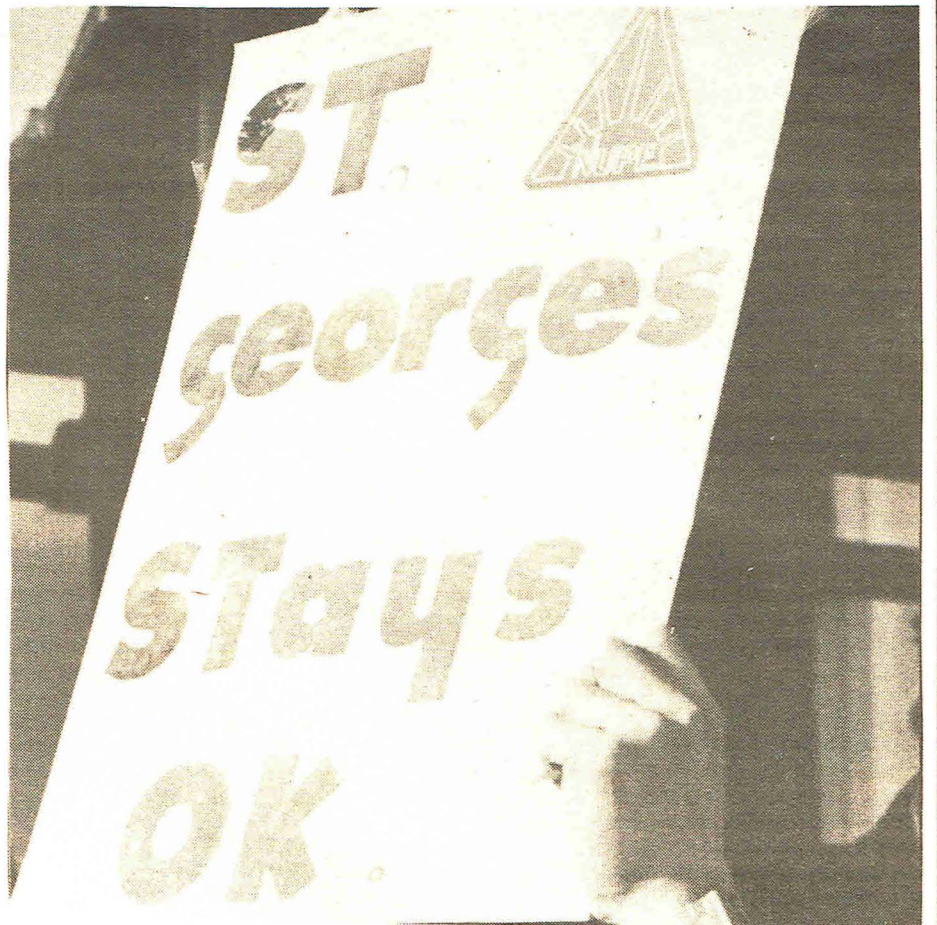


Photo: Militant

higher and higher profits has meant more and more cuts in the NHS.

We need a socialist govern-

ment to turn off the support machines to capitalism. That will be a "death" no one will mourn.

fraternally,
Mike Waddington
Chairman, Basildon LPYS

Feudal relics part one

Dear Comrades,

Whilst recently looking through a widely-sold magazine for women, I was disgusted to see a full page spread about how a 'socialite' manages to get through her day.

The article was an interview with Vanessa Hubbard, neice of the Duke of Norfolk, and I quote her words:

"I have attempted to work on several occasions, the trouble is one has to get up far too early. Often, I would be expected to be at my work by nine! It's not on when one leads the sort of life I do—I'm rarely in bed before 6am."

The article continues: "After lunch there is shopping, the mainstay of Vanessa's hectic day. 'I always buy Cosmo's (her pet dog) collars from Gucci—you see, he's so small his collars have to match my shoes.'"

Most of the workers I know have to start work every day at 7am, 52 weeks a year, and even after raking round the markets for the cheapest pair of shoes, find it harder all the time to meet the inflationary prices demanded by the monopolies.

The answer is clear. Only when we take control of the economy for the benefit of the majority, can we rid society of these parasitic wastrels who should have disappeared long ago with the feudal system.

Yours fraternally,
Jayne McEwan
Arundel CLP
(Duke of Norfolk's home ground)

TORY COUNCIL "SAVE" ON THE BLIND AND DISABLED

Dear Comrades,

At the recent annual budget meeting of West Lancashire District Council, Labour Party members saw how the Thatcherites are riding high against the so called "wets" in the Tory Party.

The Tory Leader of the Council gave us a homily on monetarist theory and "good housekeeping", much to the embarrassment of the minority of "wets" in the Tory benches behind him. They boasted how they had kept cut s to a minimum, while

following government guidelines (that was easy: there was precious little left to cut).

He nevertheless refused to accept a Labour amendment to restore free travel tokens to the blind and disabled, this "saving" as they call it, produced the miserable amount of £20,000 per annum.

The local Tories have always said they would protect from the cuts the "most vulnerable" in society. The blind and disabled now know that they apparently do not

come into this category.

The "wets" shuffled in their seats over this, but there were cries of anguish when the Labour Group called for a recorded vote on this item, this meant that each Councillor had to verbally vote for or against, the list of individual voting to be published in the minutes which are available for public inspection.

Very embarrassing! However, the hard-liners won the day with the whips on, and all the Tories, "wets" and all,

voted against.

Not content with the right wing domination nationally and locally however, one of the more vociferous monetarist elements on the council now obviously wants a purge. Will we now have screams in the Tory Press about undemocratic entrists in the Tory Party demanding re-selection?

Yours fraternally,
Councillor Frank Riley
Skelmersdale.

Unemployed

Dear Comrades,

An example of the horrors of youth unemployment was shown in this letter to the 'Daily Mirror'. I don't think it needs any further comment:

"Good luck to Mrs Margaret Stevens, who recently kicked out her sixteen year old daughter, Julie, for not getting a job.

"It probably did Julie a lot of good having to sleep rough in a coal shed for three weeks. If more parents were as tough, we wouldn't have so many kids in trouble." 'Mrs B. Shaftesbury, Dorset'.

Yours fraternally,
Peter Lush
Vauxhall LPYS

END COM- PLACENCY WITH CASH

At the time of writing this column, we need just over £4,900 to reach our first quarter target of £20,000! So long as our readers don't give in to complacency, we're confident of passing the target and giving the second quarter a flying start.

There's nothing really to be complacent about: from a review of the financial pages of the press at the week-end two stories in particular stood out: the fact that you have to be a company director on £30,000 before you can gain from the budget, and the attempt that went wrong by a Texan millionaire to control the world market in silver!

That's the sort of world the capitalists want to see! We want to help provide the socialist alternative. This doesn't mean just broad generalisations, but to give examples of just what concrete slogans and demands will most readily engender workers' unity.

We're hoping for hundreds of bumper donations at the Militant Readers' Meeting at LPYS Conference.

Young Socialist branches that sent us in their contributions before the conference include this week: YS and NOLS members on Tyneside, Woolwich YS pub collection,

West Midlands LPYS Militant Readers' Meeting collection, Morley LPYS (that's near Leeds), Westcliffe High School NUSS, Hackney LPYS Social raffle and collection. Many thanks, comrades!

Individual LPYS members have collected money for us, of course. For example, A Simpson of Cambridge LPYS says "I promised the Militant £2 at the Eastern Region LPYS Conference. I decided to make up for my lateness by sending £2.50 in all. I know you need the money." Other donations included picket expenses (Merseyside), NATT FE expenses (Birmingham), £10 from two CPSA NEC members, £2 D Oxley (AU EW Convenor, Caterpillar, Birtley) J Abbott (Bootle LP) and £1.50 K Brewer (T&G WU steward, Dorset)—thanks for all these.

Two supporters who sent tenners this week were MH Goldie of Cumbernauld, a local Labour Party Branch Secretary, and J Harrow

By Steve Cawley

Build

Militant

Area	received	Proportion of first quarter's target	Target 1st. Qtr	Target for year
Eastern	874		1,000	5,000
East Midlands	786		760	3,800
Hants & IOW	582		780	3,900
Humberside	231		500	2,500
London East	1372		1,240	6,200
London West	1089		940	4,700
London South	772		800	4,000
Manchester & Lancs	475		1,020	5,100
Merseyside	1107		1,200	6,000
Northern	1102		1,460	7,300
Scotland East	494		640	3,200
Scotland West	842		1,000	5,000
Southern	963		1,180	5,900
South West	364		640	3,200
Wales East	268		560	2,800
Wales West	280		620	3,100
West Midlands	1556		1,800	9,000
Yorkshire	969		1,460	7,300
Others	1017		2,400	12,000
Total received	15143		20,000	100,000

TARGET FOR APRIL 12th - £20,000 TARGET FOR YEAR - £100,000

**THIS WEEK
£982**

(Llanelli SCPS member). Also from West Wales came £3 from Maesteg Marxist Discussion Group). Humberside supporters have tried to catch up now, with over £50 in this week: that's the spirit.

Included are £1.50 from a school student, and 50p from a haircut. (It's amazing the risk some comrades will take!) £2 of this money was from sale of calendars—any money from your area to come from this source?

Croydon readers put together £10.55 from extras and small donations, £4 came from J Humphries (W London) and an E London comrade saved up £9.15 from a spell in hospital, and again from the same part of London came another £11 from sale of badges, cartoon books and calendars.

Militant 'Plunder-woman' posters are proving very popular—but rush us the 'surplus' as soon as possible if

you want us to repeat these masterpieces at real bargain prices. Send us your orders (25p each, cash with order on orders of five or more).

Finally, thanks to supporters who do send us money regularly, but don't qualify for a mention on grounds of lack of space; Medway Jumble Sale Organisers, MAW (Coventry) £15 in anticipation of 'Clegg' money, Leicester supporters (their £63 included £1.50 from a school student),

and £6, £1.15 from Edinburgh NALGO, TGWU and NUR members.

Don't be complacent about the £20,000 target! Use collectors' cards, appeal sheets, meetings, socials, paper rounds, jumble sales, 'petrol money', posters, cartoon books, and of course paper. And if you have to miss the trip to the LPYS Conference, why not make a donation to the funds of your local LPYS branch, which

will probably be sadly depleted at this particular time, and also make a donation to the Militant.

Give us a great finish to the end of the first quarter and get as far as possible into the second one! See how your area's doing on the chart. Those areas over 90% of the way have got no excuse for not passing their target by the time the comrades see this column! As for the other areas, there's a challenge to be faced—are you going to accept it?

WORLD BOOKS OUT NOW!

South Africa: the workers' movement—SACTU and the ANC—a struggle for Marxist policies.

70p including postage
'Northern Ireland: Tory Cuts—Common Misery, Common Struggle'. By Peter Hadden
40p including postage
1980 booklist now available

NEW BADGE, 'Defend Union Rights, Imprison the Tories NOT the Workers.' 25p each (plus 12p postage) or £13 for 100 (plus £2 postage). Cheques payable to M A Pearce, 32 Worples Road Mews, London SW 19

SWANSEA LPYS Public Debate: 'Which Way for Labour?' Rob Sewell ('Militant supporter') v Frank Evans (Campaign for Labour Victory) 7.30pm Wednesday 16 April. (Venue to be Announced).

Classified

BADGES MADE TO ORDER. 1 inch, 1½ inch and 2 inch button badges made to order, no charge for artwork. Fantastic Fund Raising, ideal for local campaigns. Also A3 posters, Tee-shirts, and leaflets designed and printed. Large SAE for details: Dept M, Maprographics, 32 Worples Rd Mews, London SW19.

MAY DAY GREETINGS IN MILITANT'S 500th ISSUE

May Day 1980 is a special occasion for Militant. It marks our 500th edition. For over fifteen years Militant has campaigned for socialist policies and supported workers in struggle.

Get your trade union branch, Labour Party and YS to back Militant. Send your greetings to the workers of the world this May Day.

Rates: semi-display 3 column cm (up to 15 words)...£2
6 column cm (up to 25 words)...£4
display one-sixteenth page.....£7
one-eighth page.....£14

Closing date for copy, 15th April. Cheques payable to Militant. Send to Militant, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

mation, write to Militant Marxist Weekend School, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN. (Cheques payable to 'Militant')

Any one making last-minute hotel accommodation for LPYS Conference contact Simon Heather, 021 449 1108

Limited run red and black 'Plunder Woman' Posters 50p each [Post Free]. Order NOW from Militant, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN. Bulk Orders: ½ price with order [other half to the Fighting Fund].

'STUFF THATCHER' badges: 2 for 45p; 5 for £1; 10 for £1.75; 50 for £7.60. Order from D. Kemp (Dept D), 114 Ladybarn Rd, Fallowfield, Manchester 14.

A paper worth shouting about

You can sell 'Militant' anywhere. That's been the experience of sellers up and down the country. Steel towns and mining areas have good sales, but even if you live in a rural or suburban area which is a Tory stronghold, don't worry!

Jim McEwan wrote from Littlehampton, in Arundel the second strongest Tory constituency in the country. They set up a table with a petition against Tory cuts in education, and sold 20 papers in under an hour. Before the Tory government, they struggled to sell half a dozen.

An enthusiastic approach also paid big dividends in Eastleigh near Southampton. Using posters and shouting slogans their sales go up every week. After all, 'Militant' is worth shouting about. A bold approach—and you can sell anywhere. We're looking forward to our first 'Daily Excess' headline about 'Marxist moles' in Windsor Castle!

Make sure your LPYS



By Dave Farrar

branch, trade union branch or shop stewards' committee take a regular order.

ads

CLASSIFIED: 5p per word, minimum ten words
SEMI-DISPLAY: £2 per 2 column centimetres.
All advertisement copy should reach this office by SATURDAY

Militant Readers' Meetings

BLACKBURN Militant Day School. 3.00pm: Capitalist crisis—socialist alternative. Break 5.30pm: What Future for Ireland? speakers to be confirmed 20th April, Shadsworth Road, Blackburn. Tickets 50p from 'Militant', 35 Westminster Court, Blackburn.

SOUTHEND Militant Public Meeting. 'What Militant Stands For'. Speaker: Wayne Jones (Militant Industrial Reporter). 8.00 pm. Wednesday 16 April. At The Labour Hall, 30 Cambridge Road, Southend.

BRISTOL Militant Public Meeting. 'Celebrate 500th Edition—Make 14 May a 24-hour General Strike'. Speakers: Jeremy Birch (Birmingham Selly Oak Labour Party); Pete Hammond (Labour councillor expelled from Labour Group). 7.30 pm. Wednesday 16 April. At Central Hall (in Church Hall), Old Market Street, Bristol.

SWANSEA Militant Public Meeting. 'Kick Out the Tories'. Speaker: Peter Taaffe (Editor, 'Militant'). 7.30 pm. Monday 28 April. Dynevor School, Swansea.

LIVERPOOL Militant '500th Edition Dance'. Saturday 26 April. Chaucers, Hardman Street, Liverpool 2. Tickets £1. Contact 051 263 1084.

KINGSWOOD Militant Readers Meeting in conjunction with T Lucas Shop Stewards' Committee. Thursday 17 April 7.30pm. NUFLAT offices, 15 High Street, Kingswood. Speakers: Colwyn Jones (TGWU Convenor, T Lucas), Jeremy Birch (Birmingham Selly Oak Labour Party).

CHELTENHAM Militant Readers Meeting. Bevan House, 67 Clarence Street, Cheltenham. Speaker Cllr. P Hammond ('expelled' Bristol City Councillor). Thursday 17 April 7.30 pm.

MILITANT MARXIST WEEKEND SCHOOL
Courses: Introduction to Marxism; Marxist Economics; Marxism and the trade unions; The Life of Trotsky; China—History and Perspectives.
Film: 'The Battle for Chile'
Debate: The lessons of Chile 1970-73.
Date: Friday 27 June to Sunday 29 June.
Venue: Goldsmith's College Students' Union, Lewisham Way, London SE 14.
Cost: £3 for whole weekend. £1.50 Saturday or Sunday only. £1 Friday evening only.
To book, or for further infor-

LEYLAND WORKERS PREPARE TO

STRIKE BACK

Leyland workers face their most decisive battle since nationalisation. Every month, every week, almost every day we are presented with the most bloodcurdling threats.

Even the most inactive trade union member in BL now realises that Edwardes and his gang, backed up by the Tory government, have declared a fight to the finish against Leyland workers and their trade union organisations.

By Bill Mullins

(Senior Steward
Rover Cars
Solihull)

After six months of negot-

iations, management have refused to budge.

They plan to impose a 15 per cent wage cut, only increasing wages by 5% while inflation runs at 20%. They are demanding some of the most vicious working conditions yet seen in what is already a mind-blowing, arduous job.

They have told the trade unions that they will impose these conditions from 8th April on all hourly-paid Leyland car workers.

Management have backed this up by again threatening to "discipline" anybody, i.e. shop stewards, who "attempts to disrupt" their plans.

They have provoked an enormous wave of anger throughout Leyland. There is now a real chance of a national fight-back against the bosses and their plans.

If there is a fight, however, it will be no thanks to the national leadership. Our members' anger is accompanied by distrust of their leadership.

Throughout the period of negotiations the leadership have echoed the company by saying "BL can't afford a strike" and "We are not preparing for a strike."

These were the words of Bro. Hawley, chairman of the

trade union side of the Leyland Cars Joint Negotiating Committee (LCJNC). This unelected committee of national officers and some convenors had already dropped the claim for £24 across the board to 10% (£7-8), even though the original claim had been adopted by the democratically-elected Leyland Cars Combine Trade Union Committee.

'Militant' supporters in Leyland, including the writer, have since 1976 pointed out the need for national action on wages in Leyland as a prelude to a serious fight against redundancies and plant closures.

We have argued that the Combine Trade Union Committee would have to build its authority by giving a lead on the vital issue of wages. Instead we have witnessed this authority first diverted to the illusion of participation committees and then handed on a plate to the unaccountable LCJNC.

Management have taken full advantage of this vacillation. "Appetite grows with the eating"—the bosses, and Edwardes in particular, are in full cry.

They believe an unbridgeable gap has opened up between the shop floor and

the trade unions, a gap which they are preparing to fill.

It is at this point that even the national officials (particularly in the T&GWU, which represents 70 per cent of BL trade unionists) have realised that this is a fight to maintain trade union organisation. After all, their careers depend on maintaining union membership in big firms like BL.

In response to management's 8th April deadline, the LCJNC have called on the executive committees of all Leyland unions to declare an official strike from that date.

At the time of writing, the executives have not yet met. It is expected that the T&GWU will make the strike official, but a question-mark hangs over the attitude of the craft unions, such as the AUEW and the EETPU.

Irrespective of what happens at 'official' level, mass meetings must be called in every Leyland Cars factory.

Already some shop stewards and members are saying mass meetings are unnecessary because the company's terms have already been rejected by 6-4 in secret ballots. If the T&GWU make strike action official, they argue, this will amount to an instruction for the majority of BL workers.

This attitude would be fatal to the strike's success. Mass meetings must be held to explain the issues and organise the running of the strike.

Votes to endorse the action must be taken at the beginning of the strike so that shop stewards have a firm mandate and can demand that no deal to end the strike is agreed over the heads of the members.

We now have a chance to turn back the tide against Edwardes and the Tories. The vital key to victory is decisive leadership.

- ★ All out from 8 April.
- ★ Mass meetings in every factory.
- ★ For the full claim of £24 across the board.
- ★ All unions must make the strike official.
- ★ For workers' control and management of British Leyland.

ASSAY WORKERS MUST NOT LOSE

The Birmingham Assay Office strike is now in its seventh week. The National Union of Gold, Silver and Allied Trades have taken a principled stand against the threatened 38 redundancies and for work sharing.

With the strike wearing on, however, and some workers individually accepting redundancy terms, the union has been forced to accept voluntary redundancies.

Twenty-eight names were submitted to management. After negotiations, in which management rejected some of these volunteers, it was agreed that 16 full-time and one part-time job would be retained out of the 38 by a work-sharing scheme.

At least that was the union's interpretation at the end of talks on Monday 24 March. When negotiations reconvened on the Friday, management went back on everything.

They would only accept work-sharing to cover the five jobs salvaged before the strike began. They would choose who was to go, insisting on enforced redundancies.

On top, they singled out as 'essential workers' the 17 non-union scabs who have worked throughout the dispute. Whatever happened, they would not be put on short-time—the rest of the workforce would have to take a further cut in hours and money to give the blacklegs a full week.

Bryn Waters, NUGSAT district secretary, is convinced that management wants to crush the union. In this the jewellery trade as a whole is behind them. Annual wage negotiations with the jewellers association start in July, and a defeated union would be just to their liking.

Not only for the sake of the Assay workers' jobs but to establish the strength of the union, this strike must not be lost.

By Jeremy Birch

(Selly Oak Labour Party)

NUT CONFERENCE— Rally all members to fight cuts

By Felicity Dowling

(President, Liverpool NUT
in personal capacity)

Unless education is to be permanently vandalised, national action must be taken. Teachers must mobilise to fight the cuts ravaging services in almost every area.

From September 1980, 30 becomes the maximum class size we accept in primary and secondary schools. The campaign around this issue can be a rallying point for NUT members.

The executive must ensure that every teacher in every school feels confident to take action. Only a national campaign can ensure this. Local campaigns could weaken under pressure or after securing minor gains, undercutting our national strength.

Liverpool has submitted an amendment to the memorandum calling for a half-day strike to launch this campaign. This must be given full support.

However, the struggle against the Tory government cannot be fought by the NUT alone. The TUC has called a day of action against the Tories for May 14th.

The NUT must play a full and active role in this, calling meetings in each area, producing leaflets to explain the case against the cuts to parents and other trade unionists. The NUT must take its place alongside the rest of the trade union and labour movement.

The damage inflicted on the education service by this government shows that it is



The NUT must take action to defend education

Photo: MILITANT

impossible to separate education from politics. Conference should support the resolution calling for the executive to prepare the rule changes necessary to allow the NUT to affiliate to the Labour Party.

We must affiliate and take our place beside the other

major trade unions to ensure that education and the other social services, major gains won by the labour movement through years of struggle, are restored and expanded by the next Labour government in the interests of all working people.

MASS PICKET AT ALAN SMITH

"You won't be laughing next time" was the message to Alan Smith group management and scabs on the first mass picket last Monday.

North Derbyshire miners, Stanton steelworkers, Young Socialists and Labour Party members swelled the strike picket line, in a magnificent show of solidarity, boosting morale.

After a long dispute over union rights, the firm have first sacked convenor Roy Bennet and then the strikers (see previous reports), and they still claim not to be anti-trade union!

What the management mean is that they like ineffective trade unionism—but that is little use to the workforce. These bosses were particularly reluctant to let stewards see financial statements of profits and losses—

maybe they have a reason for preferring to lock out their workforce rather than let them see their profits and 'workings of business'.

Mass picketing must be stepped up. Only pressure from the trade union movement can win this dispute. Nottingham trade unions must take action to stop the city, in the wake of the Nottingham Evening Post dispute, becoming a union-breaking centre.

AUEW members should get resolutions from their branches calling for firm action from the executive. Factory meetings should be held in the Notts. area explaining why the dispute is an important issue for every engineering worker, and get a turnout from the AUEW on future mass pickets.

Details of further mass pickets, offers of help and financial contributions to Alan Smith strikers, c/o 95 Brownlow Drive, Rise Park Estate, Notts.

By Tony Cross
(Nottingham East LP)

NALGO ACTION WINS BETTER DEAL

Local government clerical workers have settled. Last week our employers afforded an average rise of more than 13% from 1st January 1980 on the comparability section of our 1979 pay deal—ranging from 9.5% for those on the lowest salaries to 18% for those at the top.

Some NALGO members are affronted by the discrimination against those at the bottom end of the scale, but the achievement of an average 13% is a big step forward for NALGO. In response to a claim for 10% to 22%, arising from the comparability study, we were originally told we could only have 6-12%.

The industrial action and solidarity shown by our members demonstrate their

strength, when given positive leadership. No more will our union leaders be able to say 'the members won't act', or members doubt their own strength. In the coming struggles against further Tory cuts, we will need that strength.

Members of NALGO must now organise themselves to ensure that our leadership use our newly-recognised strength to fight for our 1980 pay claim, for a minimum wage and a large cash element rather than ascending percentages. This could do something to pull low-paid members (the majority of NALGO's rank and file) out of the increasing hardship they are facing.

By Ronnie Stevenson, Strathclyde NALGO Executive, personal capacity

**STEEL
STRIKE
WEEK
14:**

SOUTH WALES JOBS - WE CAN'T FIGHT ALONE



Trade unionists on the demonstration in Cardiff during the recent one-day general strike

If 11,500 steel jobs disappear in South Wales by August of this year, as threatened, it will not be long before the NCB announces its own shopping list of pits to close.

They have a phrase for pits losing money—"arterial bleeders". These, it is said, would be first to go. Our colliery, employing 800 men, could well be among them.

Throughout Wales between 96,000 and 100,000 men would be without jobs because the steel plants are run down and the pits closed. You cannot 'mothball' a pit in the way it is talked of mothballing steelworks.

In Maesteg the result could be 3,000 jobs lost in a 23,000 population. It would be reduced to a dormitory town with a demoralised, out of work population. Small shops and the local marketplace could well close, leaving even

less opportunities for work.

When the steel cuts were first announced, amongst members at our pit there was a feeling of bewilderment and a thirst for more information about what was going on and what is to be done about it.

For us it was a double blow because over £1½m had just been invested in developing a new seam of coking coal, used in the steel industry and as power station duff. But if the BSC plans to go through then 2½m tonnes of Wales' yearly coal production would not be needed.

The Tories' feudal decree to the BSC would be the biggest social crime since the 1920s unless alternative work is made available. The mood amongst the members has changed now to anger and resentment. This was clearly shown at a general meeting of the lodge attended by nearly

90 members, which agreed overwhelmingly that our union's area executive should be empowered to call a strike as part of the Wales TUC's campaign, which led to the regional one-day strike and rally in Cardiff on 28 January.

Members at the meeting felt that if the collieries were to close, there would be no more transfers to other pits; what was wanted was a job and not fat redundancy

cheques that would only last for a couple of years.

I feel that the steel unions should now be calling for worksharing round the plants without loss of pay, until alternative industries are set up in the area committed to paying no less favourable wages than we get at present.

I hope that the regional strike is looked on as a call for assistance by the other areas. We can't keep taking action

in isolation from the rest of the coalfield. We need support. This our area executive are fully aware of.

If the NUM called national industrial action against pit closures it would represent the coming of age of the NUM on issues other than wages in the '80s.

It would also be a shining example to steelworkers and other unions of the way to defend jobs and open the way

for the return of a Labour government committed to real socialist policies: nationalisation of the bulk of the economy under democratic workers' control and management. Only then would there be any assurance of regular work with decent living standards.

Ian Isaac, NUM Lodge secretary, St Johns colliery, Maesteg, spoke to Paul Davies, face electrician

BSC needs workers' control

Peter Hill ('Times' reporter) 'What about these secret papers concerning lay-offs resulting from the steel strike, Gordon?'

Gordon Sambrook (BSC) 'You've got it wrong, Peter, there are no such documents.'

Peter Hill 'But I've seen the papers myself.'

Gordon Sambrook 'You couldn't have, they've been shredded.'

The above quote, reproduced in 'Steelworkers Banner', the ISTC strike paper, says a lot about the way that BSC management have conducted this strike. No deception is

too great or small.

Sometimes it is outright lies. Usually it's not what they say but what they don't.

In a four-page letter sent out by 'Black' Bob Scholey, BSC chief executive, to every steelworker, he tells of all the letters he has received from steelworkers. He does not say how many, or how many actually support him. Not many I would guess, or he would have let us know.

The centre pages are a reproduction of the draft agreement between the unions and BSC.

Workers are being asked to

enter into a totally one-sided agreement. They are to increase productivity, reduce manning (i.e. lose jobs), reduce overtime and industrial disputes. They will pay for their own pay rises.

In return management promise nothing, except that the amount of money workers get will depend on how efficiently management run BSC. On past performance that isn't much of a deal.

The case for workers' control can be made for all industries, but surely nowhere stronger than at British Steel. After three months on

strike this agreement has little to offer. In particular point six, on blacking, must be rejected. It states that the firms that have consistently scabbed during this dispute, must not be blacked or victimised when the strike ends.

If these people are allowed to get away with it, it will be a green light for firms to scab in other industrial disputes, knowing that when it is over, they can continue as normal. Blacking must not only be continued in BSC, but lists of scab firms should be circulated to all trades councils and union bodies.

By Jeff Price

**MILITANT PAMPHLET
'A Socialist Strategy for Steelworkers'
Price 20p [plus 10p p&p]. From:
World Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace,
London E8 3PN**

POSTMEN HELP

The media have done their best to discredit the steelworkers in their struggle for the interests of working class people, as the bosses' Tory boot-boys seek to erode the hard-won rights that our class has gained.

To counter-balance this, Mark Evans, a young postman in Llanelli, and a member of the Labour Party

Young Socialists, has invented his own strategy of effective tactics in support of the steelmen.

Lorry drivers stopped Mark to ask for directions to the private steelworks, Dupont Llanelli. Using his initiative he led the 'scab drivers' down dead-end streets, to ineffectiveness and confusion.

BLACK COUNTRY MAID

Country Maid bakers at Saltney continue their strike against victimisation and in defence of trade union organisation. Scab managers reside in luxury hotels outside Chester, while Bakers' Union members picket in the freezing rain.

At the last mass meeting, branch secretary Peter Martin described how management had eventually agreed to meet ACAS and the Bakers' Union for negotiations. This was a climb down; it was a sign that the strike was beginning to hit Allied Bakeries where it hurt—in their filled wallet.

But as Peter Martin said "ACAS was totally one-sided, they were putting management's view over even before management arrived at the meeting. In fact when we first went in, I thought we were already with the bosses. It was the biggest waste of three hours I've been through."

At the talks management produced a document which effectively reserved their right to sack the four men concerned. "We came out because of victimisation; if we go back on these terms we'll still face victimisation," one shop steward said; "these men could still be sacked in six months."

At the mass meeting there was overwhelming support for

the shop stewards' committee. When it came to the vote, not a single one was prepared to return to work.

These workers realise that they can't rely on ACAS. They can't rely on the rule book for protection either, because when it suits them, management throws it out the window.

They realise they have to rely on their trade union's strength and the solidarity of fellow trade unionists to defend their rights and conditions.

If management win this case, they'll use it as a precedent for attacks on worse-organised bakeries. Several at the mass meeting referred to the way that the Tories are trying to destroy the trade unions; as one lad said to us, "Next budget they'll be shooting strikers."

This is no longer a local issue, nor even just a Bakers' Union issue. The labour movement must come to the aid of the Country Maid bakers.

Already several Allied Bakeries have voted to start a work to rule in solidarity. Bakers everywhere should investigate any 'missing' management, and follow the example of one area, where union members demanded management be brought back

from scabbing at Saltney, within hours, with the alternative of industrial action.

Members of URTU and the Transport and General Workers Union should call on their unions to organise blacking of Country Maid. They must organise blacking of the flour being delivered from Allied Mills in Warrington, by two scabs.

The URTU leadership have been lamentably slow to act. As TUC affiliates they have a duty to stop scabbing. URTU members and branches should pressurise their leadership into immediate action.

Trade unions, Labour Parties and Labour Party Young Socialist branches should send messages of support and urgently needed cash to:—**The Country Maid Shop Stewards' Committee, c/o 7 Boundary Lane, Saltney, Chester, or ring Peter Martin, at Chester 672 983.**

Liverpool dockers call for national action

The Liverpool docks strike now has official union backing. Trade unionists on the docks are pressing for the T&GWU to call a national all-out strike in their support.

T&GWU officials say that the dispute is a local problem, which can be dealt with

through local negotiations. The Liverpool dockers reject this. They point out that they were obeying union instructions to black steel when management suspended their members.

The trade unions have a responsibility to take action to

defend them and their right to give support to the steelworkers by blacking.

The Port of Liverpool employers have announced their conditions for a return to work: they are asking stockholders not to send any more steel to the docks while

the strike lasts, but they are also demanding that any steel on the dock at the moment must be worked.

If this was conceded, the dockers' right to take effective solidarity action in support of other workers would be under threat.

COMPTONS

meeting or allowed to make any recommendation to the meeting. Thirty workers have already left to look for other jobs.

This was nonetheless a magnificent struggle. Many of the mainly women workers were not even union members when the strike started and this was the first industrial action in the firm's history. Their prompt and determined action in occupying the factory and the extensive, well-organised picketing stand as a model for every worker who witnessed it.

There is some bitterness, especially as the occupation committee were not given details of the deal before the

**Send reports
of disputes in
your area
into 'Militant'**

the strike lasts, but they are also demanding that any steel on the dock at the moment must be worked.

If this was conceded, the dockers' right to take effective solidarity action in support of other workers would be under threat.

By Richard Knights

STEEL - THE BATTLE FOR JOBS GOES ON

The negotiating committee of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation have voted by 41 to 27 to accept the return-to-work formula of the Lever Committee.

This decision has been endorsed by the ISTC executive. The leaders of other steel unions have also recommended a return to work.

By Brian Ingham
 (Industrial Correspondent)

As a result, at 6 am. on Thursday morning, steelworkers will begin re-entering steel works in which they last set foot before Christmas.

Lasting over thirteen weeks, this strike has been the longest industry-wide dispute in Britain since the second world war.

A battle is over. But a battle that meant the start in earnest of the campaign to save the steel industry itself and industry as a whole from destruction at the hands of the Tories and big business.

The Tories and BSC management provoked the steel strike with their staggering wage offer of only 2%, which itself followed announcements of savage new steel redundancies.

Tories shaken

The hope was that steel workers would easily be crushed, paving the way for similar attacks on other sections of workers.

But that Tory strategy has failed abysmally. The combativity, cohesion, solidarity, energy and initiative of steelworkers has shaken the Tories and BSC management, and forced them to retreat massively.

This action of the steelworkers has also acted as an inspiration to the entire labour and trade union movement.

The final settlement is light years away from the original 2% offer which would have been forced upon steelworkers but for their magnificent battle.

Nevertheless, the bitterness of the pickets outside the ISTC headquarters as the negotiating committee decision was announced, and the significant vote against acceptance on the committee, both indicate the widespread feeling, especially among steelworkers, that far more could

have been achieved with more decisive tactics from the outset and with a forthright leadership.

Part of the 17% includes money that is conditional upon the negotiation of local productivity deals. Steelworkers will return with their unity intact. The divide between men and management is now a deep ravine, nothing will be given meekly by steelworkers ever again.

It is likely that most local productivity deals will be nothing but a cosmetic exercise. But even the final deal would never have been offered had it not been for the pressure and initiative of steelworkers at rank and file level.

South Yorkshire steelworkers gave a lead which was rapidly taken up by steelworkers throughout the country. A network of flying pickets was quickly combing the country and steel movements began to decline dramatically.

The problems of big business due to the strike were camouflaged by a blizzard of lying propaganda aimed at undermining steelworkers' morale. But firms such as Metal Box were forced to close. Others also either shut completely or seriously reduced their operations, while hundreds of other firms were at the point of almost exhausting their last steel reserves.

In the course of the next few months the real impact of the steel strike on industry will gradually filter through.

Unity in action

The management propaganda may have affected the union leaderships, but generally speaking, it acted as a spur on those steelworkers active on the picket lines to tighten their action still

further.

The pressure from below narrowed considerably the room for manoeuvre of the steel union leaders, forced the abandonment of the attempt to settle earlier on less favourable conditions, and forced joint action at the top around the negotiating table. In most areas at rank-and-file level, unity in action has been immediate.

Rank-and-file steelworkers in all the unions should now move jointly to take a firm grip on all negotiations. Strike committees should revert, or where necessary, be transformed, into joint shop stewards' committees. These committees should link up nationally.

They should also appoint one joint negotiating committee to meet BSC on behalf of BSC workers. This would preserve and extend the crucial element of ISTC democracy where lay ISTC negotiators observe negotiations.

Jobs must not vanish

This system of negotiations proved decisive in stopping earlier deals being struck.

But the lay negotiators were also effectively circumvented in the closing stages, merely being stampeded into accepting a deal that had already been concluded. The democratic control by shop stewards of all negotiations in future is therefore crucial.

Such a step forward would give a boost to those steel workers preparing the next stage of the fight against BSC management: the fight for jobs. This fight was always in the background of the steel strike, becoming more prominent as the strike progressed. Steelworkers must not allow jobs to vanish.

The bosses now know steelworkers are able to vigorously defend their interests. They will not relish the idea of another battle with steelworkers on jobs.

Sections of steelworkers in South Wales have announced they will fight on unless the threat to their jobs is removed.

Should they decide to fight, national supporting action must be launched. Those who say this is not possible are wrong. Certainly steelworkers will want to draw their breath, pay bills and recoup their energy after the arduous battle. But, given a lead they will respond to a call to help those whose jobs are at risk, those who fought valiantly on the picket lines knowing that if the closures were enacted

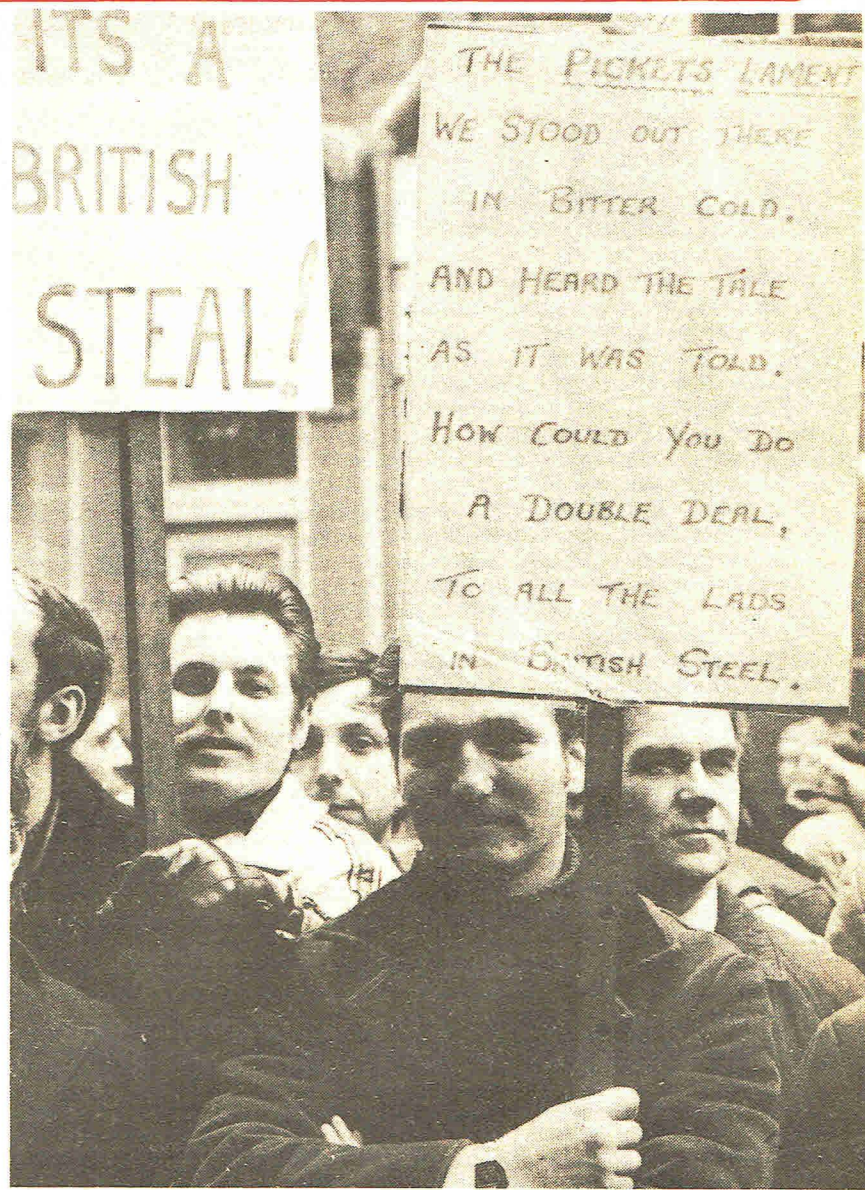


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UNEMPLOYED

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a 6% cut in education spending? Even the 'rise' in health spending won't counteract last year's cuts, and certainly won't cover the 1-2% increase a year needed just to keep the services running. And of course, the NHS or what remains of it will increasingly be financed by charges, in particular the £1 prescription charge.

"The Guardian" reckoned that only families earning over £15,000 a year would gain from the budget. Well, that's nothing new from the Tories!

A budget which raises Royal Pay, makes it possible for estates of £100,000 to be passed on tax free, leaves bank profits untouched, and makes only a token scoop into the enormous barrel of oil profits is a Tory government looking after its own.

The labour movement

must do the same.

The TUC General Council has mistakenly refused officially to make 14 May into a 24-hour general strike. But the pressure must be kept up from the rank and file to make this day of action—in practice if not in name—a one-day general strike, with mass rallies and demonstrations.

The language of organised working-class action is the only language the Tories can be made to understand.

they would have no job on their return.

However, this strike has raised strongly the need for the steelworkers themselves, together with the labour movement as a whole to take over control of the steel industry and all other nationalised industries.

'Militant's' demand for workers' control and management of nationalised industries to be enacted as part of a thoroughgoing socialist programme by the next Labour government must now become central to the whole activity of steel trade unionists.

One thing is certain, the steel unions themselves will never be the same. The process of transformation seen in smaller former company unions such as the Bakers will now be set in motion in the steel unions.

ISTC and the other unions can no longer be regarded as tame company unions. That is a gain not just for steelworkers but for the whole labour and trade union movement.

See also reports on the steel strike Page 15

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