

NHS PATIENTS UNDER ATTACK

Margate hospital workers' leader tells what happened when the law moved in...

By John Nicholson
(COHSE Branch Secretary)

For the second time in three weeks, Health Authorities have used the police in strong-arm tactics to end work-ins at hospitals threatened with closure.

On 21 March the police virtually cordoned off Etwall village in S Derbyshire. 120 police forced the pickets away from the entrance and then senior administrators drove in and took the bewildered patients away whether they wanted to go or not.

They tried a virtual carbon-copy of this on 9 April in Margate.

Our battle that day began at 9 o'clock, when ambulancemen arrived to remove the patients. The crews had been told by the management that there were no nurses left on the ward to look after the patients.

After a long discussion and volunteer nurses giving their assurances that they would come and look after the patients, the ambulance crews reaffirmed an earlier decision not to cross the picket line.

The events after this illustrated the determination of management to show the unions involved in the occupation that the

Continued on page 16



Margate: health authority management force unwilling patients into cars to clear occupied hospital

SHOPFLOOR REVOLT HALTS BL BOSSES' SABOTAGE

All BL bosses' 'miracle' plans have blown up in their faces. Shopfloor anger has erupted.

Thousands of Leyland workers are on strike to defend their living standards and their unions—and more are joining them.

Workers at Common Lane, Birmingham, voted to fight. "They want

By Eileen Short

to introduce three-shift working and cut all

overtime," explains Jack Magill [T&GWU].

"We'll get no lay-off pay. they can check on you every hour to make sure you are working."

"If you are off ill they are saying you have to see the company doctor," added T&GWU shop steward Bernard Lee. BL's hired medics would be free to over-rule your own doctor and order you back to work!

The Tory government, with Edwardes as their hit-man, thought Leyland workers had finally

been beaten into the ground. Last week they were rejoicing. Now they are tasting the workers' pent-up anger.

"Edwardes was supposed to be a whizz-kid," a Jaguar Coventry worker comments wryly. "Whoever heard of a whizz-kid losing £122 million a year?"

For too long management have run roughshod over BL workers. Now the fight-back has begun.

More on Leyland page 16.

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AFGHANISTAN



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**SEIZE
THE
CHANGE**

The biggest-ever issue of 'Militant', the 24-page 500th edition, is only a week away.

With sales drives up and down the country, dozens of 'Militant' meetings and May Day demonstrations too, we're expecting bumper sales.

The Labour Party Young Socialists' Conference was a great success for 'Militant'. It was hard to find anyone who didn't buy a copy. The Llanudno locals were getting 'Militant' too!

Dozens of extra 'Militant' sales were chalked up in St Pauls in Bristol over the weekend when LPYS and Labour Party supporters organised sales on the streets and on estates.

With this kind of enthusiasm, we are confident that our readers and sellers won't disappoint us, and will ring up record sales for our 500th issue.

Don't forget to phone up and order your extra copies by Tuesday next.

Militant

1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

CAMPAIGN TO OUST THE TORIES

The last meeting of the Labour Party's National Executive Committee ratified the decision to call a special Labour Party Conference on 31 May. Conference will be asked to approve an NEC policy statement on fighting the Tory government's attacks.

Despite the original opposition of Callaghan and the right wing trade union leaders, the alternative idea of a rally was not put to the NEC.

A conference to thrash out a policy against the Tories will be a welcome step forward for the Labour Party. In the eyes of millions of workers it will differentiate Labour from the policies foisted on the Party by Callaghan in last year's general election manifesto.

The capitalist press have predictably tried to denigrate the idea. The 'Observer's' political correspondent, Alan Watkins, asserted that it would be a conference with nothing to discuss. Ludicrously, he venomously predicted that it would be "a hate rally—like those in Nazi Germany between 1933 and 1939."

The cynical pundits of the bosses' press may believe this drivel. But workers who have faced a year of Toryism know there is plenty to discuss. The threat to jobs, the attack on public services, the proposed shackles on trade union power, and the roaring inflation are all adequate reason for coming together to discuss policy and to plan a campaign to throw out this rich man's government.

Together with the TUC Day of Action on 14 May, it could be a launching pad for a mass campaign to root out the Tories and secure a

Labour government committed to socialist policies. Unfortunately, neither event, as far as the Labour leadership is concerned, is being used in this way.

The opportunity for the ranks of the labour movement to express their feelings at the 31 May conference will be decidedly muted. The conference will not be a recall conference on the basis of last year's Brighton delegations, but will call for new delegates.

The Constituency delegates will undoubtedly be predominantly left wing, as at Brighton. But the right wing of the trade union leadership are clearly hoping that the new trade union delegations, particularly from the powerful and at present right-wing dominated AUEW, will tilt the special conference to the right.

Moreover, there will be no resolutions, merely an NEC statement, and no amendments, additions or alternative resolutions will be allowed.

Without a doubt Labour Party workers and trade unionists will welcome the NEC programme as a step forward compared with the quasi-Tory policies of the Callaghan leadership. But an excellent opportunity democratically to map out the future course of Labour Party policy has been passed

by. Firm action by the leaders of the trade unions and the Labour Party could quickly build up a mass movement to oust the Tories. If boldly organised as a one-day general strike, with mass meetings in factories and work-places before the event and mass activities on the 14th, the Day of Action could have an electrifying effect on the labour movement.

If the TUC organised meetings explaining what the Tories were doing and why—and spelling out a clear alternative—rather than forlornly calling for a change in Tory policies, millions and millions of workers would respond to the call for an all-out campaign to bring down the Thatcher government.

But the TUC has not even called for a one-day general strike. It has merely requested unions to "involve the maximum number of members in the Day of Action."

The TUC's circular says, "Those workers planning not to attend their places of employment on 14 May should be able to participate in meetings in their own localities. For those not taking the above action for the whole day, workplace activities should be organised."

They are asking local areas to organise as many

activities as possible, but every decision, including whether workers should come out on strike or not, is left to individual unions and local areas.

Some unions like the NUR and NUPE have given clearer instructions. The NUR, which supports the call for a one-day general strike, has called on its members not to work on 14th and called for firm instructions from the TUC. Rail workers have been joined by bus workers in the T&GWU, so transport will virtually be at a halt.

But the lack of a firm central lead has meant that the GMWU has called for "one-day stoppages where appropriate and half-day stoppages," with every action approved by regional officers.

Undoubtedly though, as the report from Brighton shows, many areas will be making arrangements for local activities. This Day of Action and the special Conference will be just the first shots in a campaign, not only to get rid of the Tories, but to re-arm the labour movement with a socialist programme so that the next Labour government does not go the way of the last.

The one-day Conference, in particular, must be the start of a move for socialist policies for Labour; policies

which will commit the next Labour government to fight unemployment with a 35-hour week with no loss of pay and to longer holidays; policies which oppose all the cuts in public services, calling for a massive programme of public works, for example building new houses, schools and hospitals to replace the present slum buildings in many areas.

A horrifying future looms before us in the coming period of world crisis for capitalism, and especially aggravated crisis for British capitalism.

Any government which attempts to work within the rotten framework of the present system, whatever its initial intentions, would be forced along the path of pro-big business measures to ameliorate the symptoms of crisis—and anti-working class measures to pay for them.

If the working class are to be assured of any future, the demand for the nationalisation [with minimum compensation] of the top 200 monopolies, under democratic workers' control and management, is more vital than ever.

Economic and political power must be taken from the hands of the capitalist class, who are prepared to sacrifice our jobs, our living conditions, to protect their profits.

Brighton workers plan 24 hr stoppage

By Ann Jones

(Gen. Sec., Brighton Hove & District TUC)

We also drew up plans for a Rally to be followed by a march. Full-time officers, district committees and branch secretaries will be calling meetings of shop stewards to discuss the mobilisation of their membership. The trades council will call all stewards together at the beginning of May to review the situation and plan a last push.

We have published 20,000 leaflets to be distributed to union members through the branches and shop stewards' committees.

We also feel it necessary to counter the anti trade union barrage that will intensify in the run up to May 14th. So we have produced another 20,000 leaflets to deliver to households in particular council estates. This will be done by Labour Party branches and the LPYS.

This leaflet will invite all working people to attend the Rally, and explain why the TUC is representing the overwhelming majority of society in its stand against the Tory attack on the welfare state and jobs and living standards.

These are just the first steps in an all-out campaign to achieve the widest possible stoppage, and a massive demonstration in the Brighton area. I believe some of the faint-hearts will be surprised at the response we will receive on May 14th.

Trade Union Councils have a vital role to play in the preparations for the day of protest called by the TUC for May 14th.

There is no doubt that a tide of anger and bitterness is welling up against the vicious reactionary policies of the Tory government. What is required in the present situation is a bold determined unequivocal lead by the TUC.

Given that, May 14th would see the greatest demonstration of the power and strength of the labour movement ever seen in Britain.

It is to be regretted that the TUC did not make a clear call for a 24-hour general strike, and that some of the communications being received by the branches from the head offices of some of the unions are very vague and indecisive.

Our trades council has decided that, notwithstanding any lack of lead in some quarters, we would be bold, clear and precise in our call to the workers in this area.

The trades council executive met with the full-time officers of the major unions plus lay officials from others, and a representative from the Labour Party. After a review of the situation we decided unanimously to call for a 24-hour stoppage throughout the area, with emergency cover where necessary.

JOHN GOLDING AND MILITANT

Joint statement by John Golding and the 'Militant'

Following the January, 1979 meeting of the Labour Party's National Executive Committee, the 'Militant' in its edition of 2nd February 1979, published a report which, among other things, referred to John Golding's vote on a motion to include a call for the 35-hour week in Labour's EEC manifesto.

John Golding, however, strongly denied that he had voted in the way 'Militant' reported, and subsequently

began legal action for libel damages against the 'Militant' and the Cambridge Heath Press Ltd.

Since then, however, discussions have taken place in an attempt to settle this issue out of court.

There are clearly conflicting views as to what took place at the January NEC meeting. We believe that John Golding acted in good faith in saying that he did not vote against the motion on the 35-hour

week. He is supported in this contention by a number of members of the NEC and the General Secretary of the Labour Party, Mr Ron Hayward. We also believe that the 'Militant' acted in good faith when it reported, on the basis of information from other NEC members, that John Golding had voted against this motion.

It was not the intention of 'Militant' to damage the reputation of either John Golding or his trade union.

This statement is therefore intended to settle the issue. Both sides will pay their own legal expenses, and neither side will make further reference to this dispute.

By Roger Shives

The officers of the Militant Defence Campaign would like to thank all the organisations and individual members of the labour movement who have sent donations to the Campaign.

Except where addresses were lacking for individual donations, these have all been acknowledged individually.

Altogether, the Defence Fund Campaign brought in £7,593.55. When all the legal,

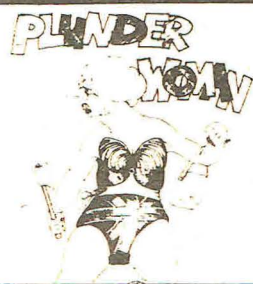
printing, secretarial and speakers' expenses are finalised, there is expected to be a surplus, as the case will not now go to court.

Full details of the expenses will be published when all bills are settled.

As the Defence Campaign

was set up to guarantee the future of Militant as a fighting Marxist paper, the officers of the Campaign propose that the surplus should be transferred to the Militant's regular Fighting Fund.

Any organisation or individual who objects to this transfer should contact me for repayment of any unspent portion of their contribution: Roger Shives, 5 Cremer House, Deptford Church Street, London SE8.



HAVE YOU GOT YOUR 'PLUNDER WOMAN' YET?

Get your red and black posters from Militant, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN. Posters 50p each [post free]

Youth Campaign Against Unemployment

The May 14th Day of Action promises to be a massive stoppage of work, with several major trade unions already calling for strike action. In many areas local Labour Parties and Trades Councils are organising demonstrations and rallies.

Undoubtedly, hundreds of thousands of young workers will be involved in what promises to be the biggest mobilisation of the working class since 1926. To this end, the Youth Campaign Against Unemployment has produced a leaflet specially aimed for use in the weeks building up to, and on May 14th itself.

The leaflet explains the Tories' attacks on working class youth, why they are taking place, and the need for a one day General strike to prepare a mobilisation of the working class, linked to socialist policies, to defeat the Tories. LPYS branches are already ordering supplies for leafletting schools, factories, colleges, as well as at dole queues and on days of action.

Some branches say they will approach shop stewards committees in factories asking them to purchase bulk orders, for distribution among young workers. All this will help build support for May 14th and help build the LPYS.

Order your supply NOW! Make sure you have a stock for Mayday, and the weeks leading up to May 14th.

Order from: K. Ramage, 23 Ironside House, Homerton Road, London E9.

Cost is £4 per 1,000 [postage is £1 per 1,000 extra]. Cash with order. Cheques to 'YCAU'

'Let them eat missiles'

IN POUNDS PER PERSON THE WORLD HAS MORE ARMAMENTS THAN FOOD

"Those whom the gods wish to destroy they first drive mad." The old Greek saying rings true for Tory defence spending.

Whilst they are laying waste much of Britain's industry and social services, they are increasing expenditure on useless armaments.

By
Colin Barber

Suffering delusions of imperial grandeur, the British ruling class are trying to keep up with the super-powers of USA and USSR. Britain, one of the poorest NATO members, is only second to the USA in the amount of its gross domestic product (4.9%) devoted to defence.

In their new White Paper, the Tories concede that "most people find [it] difficult to accept the sheer cost."

Exactly. Most people would find it unacceptable that while housing expenditure is to be cut by £2½ billion over the next four years, there will be a vast increase in defence spending.

It has gone up 3% in real terms this year, to £10,750m and will go on increasing by a further 3% both in 1981 and 1982. Britain is now spending £1m an hour on military expenditure. 'Labour Action for Peace' estimates that the average family has to pay £15 a week in taxes to finance this.

For the cost of one nuclear submarine 74,000 new homes could be built. But big business is not interested in this. They want to show their power to foreign rivals and their own working class.

While hospitals close new nuclear weapons are being developed. Francis Pym, Tory Defence Secretary, has announced that between £4,000 million and £5,000m will be spent on the replacement for the submarine-based Polaris missiles. This is in addition to the £1,000m already being spent on modernising Polaris, and at least £3,000m to be spent on equipping the RAF

with the Tornado strike aircraft.

Arms will continue to be sold to Third World regimes to bolster the ruling elites there. It has been estimated that overall world arms expenditure now reaches £1 million a minute as a staggering \$450,000m is spent each year in global military expenditure.

The Brandt Commission reported that for the cost of one jet fighter, 40,000 village pharmacies could be established. And instead of purchasing one tank, 1,000 classrooms could be built.

But how can the human priorities of health, education and developing man's social needs be established? According to the Brandt Commission by appealing to the ruling class's sense of reason.

Socialists have a different approach. It is the logic of capitalism which has brought about the present crazy system, as each ruling class builds up weapons of destruction to protect their investments and power. It is therefore vital that the labour movement confronts the capitalists and struggles for a different form of society.

During the last Labour government a secret 'committee of four' (Callaghan, Healey, Owen, Mulley) was formed to approve upgrading Polaris and setting in motion detailed examination of a new generation of nuclear weapons. This was in direct contradiction to Labour Party policy.

Recently Callaghan has

supported Carter's development of a highly-trained 'strike force', capable of intervening in the Middle East. And Shadow Foreign Secretary, Peter Shore, supported Carter's threats against Iran last week.

This support for American imperialism must be condemned by the labour movement. A new Cold War and escalating military expenditure threatens workers in Britain and throughout the world.

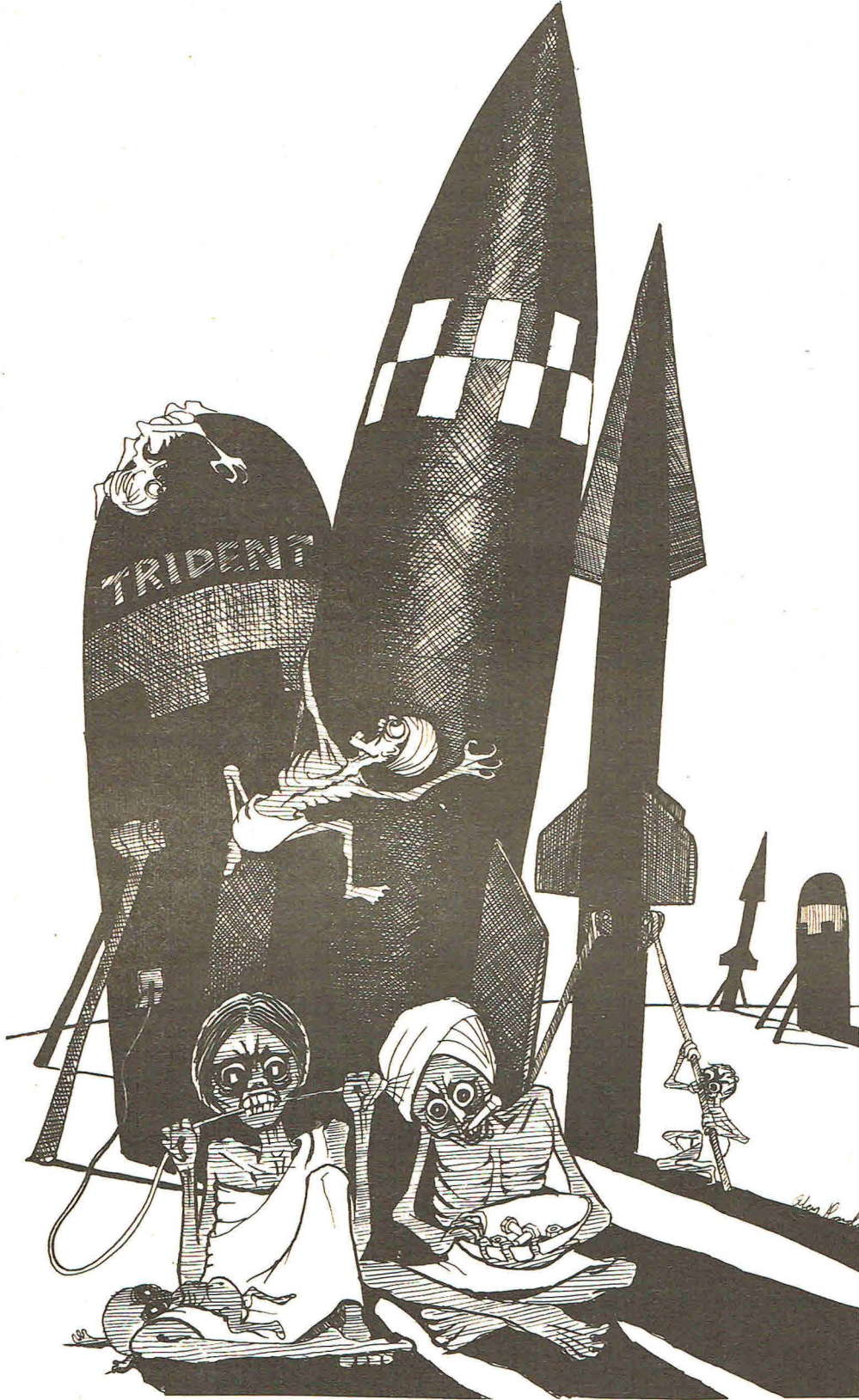
The Labour Party has called for a demonstration in London on Sunday 22 June in opposition to the Tories' arms expenditure. It has the three main slogans of: No cruise missiles on British soil. No nuclear successor to Polaris. No increase in arms spending.

ARMS COST THE AVERAGE FAMILY £15 PER WEEK IN TAX

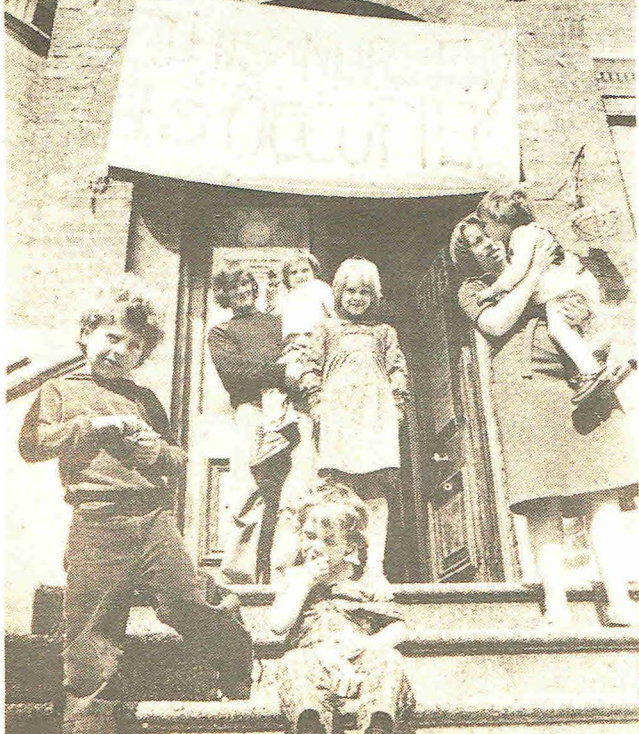
This welcome beginning must be broadened into an all-out campaign against the wastefulness and danger of military expenditure as part and parcel of a programme to end the society which produces such grotesque waste and replace it with a socialist society.

Labour Party Demonstration Against Tory Defence Policy London Sunday 22 June

[Further details later]



OCCUPATION AS TORIES CLOSE NURSERY



On 7th March, the Tory-controlled Wandsworth Borough Council closed the Nightingale Lane Day Nursery in South London. On the same day, parents and supporters occupied it.

The nursery, which caters for up to 56 children, has been closed as part of the councils' cutbacks. A council survey has shown that there are 4,000 children in the borough whose parents work, but do not have a nursery place. This lack of facilities has forced many parents to turn to unregistered childminders.

Some of the children who were using the Nightingale Nursery have not found satis-

factory alternative places, and other nurseries are now overcrowded as a result of the closure. All the children who were using the nursery have suffered unnecessary disturbance.

The Occupation Committee are demanding that the day nursery is reopened as a council nursery, and that the council give an undertaking that no other services for the under-5s will be cut.

In March this year, less than one-third of three and four year olds received any nursery education, and the Tory cuts are making the situation worse. In spite of this, the Wandsworth Tories are refusing to even discuss the question.

Councillor Lister, chairman of the Social Services committee, has written to the occupiers saying that in order

to cut council spending, "savings will be found wherever possible, if necessary by pruning services which are not cost effective." That's how the Tories look on the care of our children.

It doesn't bother them of course—their wives aren't forced to work to eek out low wages, and if they do they can afford to pay au pairs, nannies or fees for private kindergartens.

Lister refuses to meet us until the "illegal occupation" (his words) is ended. We are not perturbed by these threats and arguments. Resolve is as strong as ever, and the Occupation Committee are agreed that they will be pleased to meet the Tories—when the occupation has achieved its objectives.

Support for the occupation has come from the Labour

Party, Alf Dubs MP, the Trades Council, local residents and Wandsworth 'fight-back'. Practical help is required covering the 24-hour occupation rota, donations of money and food, and letters to Councillor Lister, Chairman of Social Services, Wandsworth Town Hall, SW18, deploring the closure and asking him to meet the Occupation Committee's demands.

This closure shows clearly how ruthless and determined the Tories are to slash public expenditure, no matter how valuable the service lost.

Send letters, telegrams of support to the Nightingale Lane Day Nursery, 56 Nightingale Lane, London SW12.

YOUNG SOCIALISTS CALL FOR LABOUR MOVEMENT ACTION

"The LPYS totally rejects any attempts by the Tories to use an official enquiry as a means of covering up the appalling conditions that gave rise to the St. Paul's riot."

"Only a comprehensive and open enquiry by the labour movement, black and community organisations can expose the terrible conditions of mass unemployment, poor leisure facilities, bad housing and police harassment which face the black and white youth of St. Paul's and elsewhere."

This is how **Rob Cadwgan LPYS [National Committee]** summed up the message from a 60 strong public meeting called by Bristol LPYS at which Rob and **Bob Lee**

By Bob Sulatycki

[Secretary, PNP Youth] spoke.

Rob, who was on the scene of the riot, gave an outline of what conditions were like in the St. Paul's area. He said that the area had become one of the worst ghettos in Bristol, with sub-standard housing, and a high rate of unemployment.

The Black and White Café, where the riot began, was

virtually the only place left where black youth can meet, "and when that was threatened by the police raid, then all hell let loose".

But he emphasised the point: "In no way was this a race riot. It was an open revolt by black and white youth who have become sick and tired of being trodden on, particularly by the police".

He added a warning to the Tories, saying, "when the youth are being attacked, don't be surprised when they bite back".

Bob Lee began by criticising those so-called 'community' leaders who, after the event, said they had predicted the riot. "If these people were so concerned," asked Bob, "then why did it take a riot for them to suddenly start

calling for better facilities for the youth?"

He said that the LPYS and the PNP had indeed forecasted such an explosion. But we predicted it, not because we have a crystal ball, but because we have always understood that the time would come when the youth would say "we've had enough."

Bob said that things will get worse under the Tories. Any fight against unemployment and police harassment must be linked to the fight to get rid of the Tories. And this means political action.

"However brave and heroic the youth who take to the streets, may be, rioting will not solve the problems. Instead, the tremendous energies of the youth must be

harnessed and transformed into political action, and that is the task of the LPYS."

The LPYS demands:

- ★ No frame ups or victimisation.
- ★ Immediate end to police harassment.
- ★ A labour movement enquiry into social conditions and police harassment in the St. Paul's area.
- ★ End unemployment—a 35 hour week now!
- ★ End bad housing.
- ★ Tories out!
- ★ Forward to socialism in the '80s.

The call for a labour movement enquiry was enthusiastically taken up by speakers from the floor, including **John Graham [Chairman, St Paul's LP branch]** and Bristol City Councillor, **Pete Hammond**.

The meeting was concluded with the unanimous support for a call for a labour movement enquiry, and a mass campaign of further action.

★ **Through pressure from LPYS and 'Militant' supporters, the following organisations and individuals are supporting the call for a Labour and trade union enquiry, and a campaign to defend those arrested at St Pauls.**

- Kingswood CLP**
- Bristol CLP**
- Ron Thomas [Secretary, Bristol Trades Council]**
- John Blackley [Convenor, Rolls Royce, Bristol]**



After the St Paul's riot, police and dogs returned

Photo: Mike Leggett (IFL)

500th ISSUE - MEETINGS AROUND THE COUNTRY

LEEDS

Hear: Peter Taaffe (Editor, Militant). Sunday 4 May, 7.30 pm, Victoria Hotel (behind Leeds Town Hall). (Includes exhibition of development of Militant and a bookstall)

LIVERPOOL

Hear: Ted Grant (Political editor, Militant); Terry Harrison. Sunday 27 April, 7.30 pm, AUEW Hall, 48 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool 3. For further information ring Terry Harrison 051-733 9810

LEICESTER

Subject: 'Militant and Internationalism'. Speaker: Pat Wall (President, Bradford Trades Council). Thursday 24 April, 7.30 pm, AUEW Offices, Vaughan Way, Leicester

BRIGHTON

Hear: Dave Farrar. Thursday 24 April, 7.30 pm, The Labour Club, Lewes Road

MANCHESTER

Hear: Roger Shives. Sunday 27 April, 7.30 pm, Star and Garter, Fairfield Street, Manchester

TYNESIDE

'1926—The lessons of the General Strike'. Thursday 24 April, 7.30 pm, Curtis Auditorium (behind Haymarket Hotel). Speakers: Jeremy Birch, also local strike leader of '26 and slide show.

DALKEITH, Midlothian

Hear: Ted Grant. Monday 28 April, 7.30 pm, Cross Keys Hotel

DUNFERMLINE, Fife

Hear: Ted Grant. Tuesday 29 April, 7.30 pm, Netherton Institute

PERTH

Hear: Ted Grant. Wednesday 30 April, 7.30 pm. See next week's issue for venue.

PADDINGTON

Hear: Ted Grant (Militant Political Editor). Thursday 24 April, 8.00 pm, 21 Star Street, London W.2. (Near Edgware Road Tube)

NEWHAM

Hear: Clare Doyle (Militant Editorial Board). Thursday 24 April, 7.30 pm, Newham Labour Party Rooms, 241e High Street North, East Ham, London E.12. (Near East Ham Tube)

WIMBLEDON

Hear: Nick Bradley (Member of London Labour Party Regional Committee) Monday 28 April, 7.30 pm, Raynes Park Hall, Approach Road, Raynes Park

HACKNEY

Hear: Bob Edwards. Wednesday 30 April, 7.30 pm, Hackney Labour and Trade Union Hall, 96 Dalston Lane, E.5.

LAMBETH

Hear: Jim Brookshaw (Greenwich Labour Party). Wednesday 30 April, 7.45 pm, Brixton Town Hall, Acre Lane, London S.W.2.

CROYDON

Speaker: Rod Fitch (Brighton Labour Party). Wednesday 30 April, 7.45 pm, Ruskin House, Coombe Road, Croydon

SOUTHWARK

Hear: Bob Faulkes (Hackney Central Labour Party) Wednesday 7 May, 7.45 pm, Lansbury House, 41 Camberwell Grove, London S.E.5.

GREENWICH

Hear: Roger Silverman (Militant International Editor) and Mike Cleverley. Thursday 1 May, 8.00 pm, Greenwich Labour Party Rooms, 32 Woolwich Road, London S.E.10.

TOTTENHAM

Hear: Peter Jarvis (Hackney South Labour Party). Thursday 1 May, 8.00 pm, Tottenham Trades Hall, Bruce Grove, London N.17.

HOUNSLOW

Hear: Keith Dickinson (Hammersmith North Labour Party) Friday 2 May, 8.00 pm, 20 Heath Road, Hounslow

More 500th issue ads on page 13

SCOTTISH TUC - TORIES MUST BE DRIVEN OUT!

Although the agenda of the annual Congress of the Scottish TUC reflects the anger of the labour movement, no clear way forward is offered.

This year's congress provides an opportunity for the trade unions in Scotland to comment on the unparalleled 200,000 plus unemployment, 20% inflation and the plant closures at Singer, Prescold, Goodyear, Monsanto, Massey Ferguson, etc., as well as the government's expenditure cuts programme.

With this in mind the agenda for the conference in no way shows a clear road forward for the organised labour movement. Solutions such as that advocated by the NUM [Scottish Region] in resolution 4, the Alternative Economic Strategy, do have some important demands.

However, the strategy of Cambuslang Trades Council of a siege economy, calling for militant action to stop imports provides no answer, and the condemnation of the Tories for lifting exchange controls as "a blatantly unpatriotic action" is beneath commenting upon.

In contrast resolution 11 from Glasgow Trades Council declares that "the only solution to the present crisis in the interests of working people is the early return of a Labour government committed to the establishment of a planned

socialist economy." It ends, "Congress, therefore, instructs the General Council of the STUC to join with the Labour Party in Scotland to organise a trade union and labour movement campaign of propaganda, meetings and demonstrations against Tory government policies and for a Labour government committed to socialism." If the Congress accepts this strategy, all affiliated organisations must demand that the General Council conduct such a campaign.

The attempts of the Tory government to manacle the unions through legislation such as the proposed Employment Bill meets with unanimous opposition. This, however, takes more than one form. **Edinburgh Trades Council** for example "de-

mands that the Bill...must be repealed by the next Labour government." Such a position accepts without a fight that the Bill will in fact become law.

The trade union and labour movement in Scotland represents over one million people. This Congress must be used as a platform to launch a concerted attack against this reactionary government, mobilising towards making 14 May a one-day general strike, a strategy advocated by resolution 56 from **Kircaldy Trades Council**.

Under no circumstances must the STUC General Council be allowed to escape its responsibilities to organise and campaign for working people, to pave the way for the implementation of socialist policies.

By Eddie Phillips

(CPSA Delegate, personal capacity)

SCOTTISH TUC MILITANT PUBLIC MEETING

Hear: Wayne Jones

(Industrial Reporter, Militant)

Frank Bonner (Delegate, CPSA)

Wednesday 23rd April, 6.00 pm

Co-op Lesser Hall, Canal Street, Perth

ALL WELCOME

LEFT and RIGHT

Remember North Shields?

Even the Tory press had to admit last week that the Bristol riots were a direct result of mass youth unemployment, intolerable living standards and conditions. But while the Tory press may highlight some of the problems facing youth in this area, it will only last a few weeks, and then it will be back to whole page stories about Prince Charles being kissed in public, how the animals at London Zoo are feeling and so on.

Ten years ago, there was another 'riot' in North Shields, with scenes very similar to those in Bristol. Commenting on the similarities between this and Bristol, Cllr. Albert Chambers told the local paper, "Any area with high unemployment is sitting on a powder keg. Men and women become aggressive and frustrated when they are out of work, out of pocket and have their ambitions soured."

"No lessons have been learned." But the bosses class have learned—they know that workers will not accept mass unemployment without resistance, and will increasingly turn to socialism as a solution. That is why special task forces such as the SPG were introduced in the mid-seventies, and why at this very moment the Tories are trying to push the 'Scottish Criminal Justice Bill' through parliament. This law would give the police even greater powers of detention than they have already under the notorious 'sus' laws. This is the bosses answer to mass unemployment—for the workers it must be to fight to end the capitalist system that condemns them to the dole, and fight for the socialist planned economy, with jobs for all.

Police to join anti-cuts committee?

And while the police chiefs inquire into what exactly happened at Bristol, they will no doubt be having a friendly word with the bright spark who thought he could save the Avon and Somerset constabulary a few bob over car insurance. A couple of weeks ago, as part of the 'savings' in public expenditure, this area decided to end fully comprehensive insurance cover of their police cars, and change to third party. A few nights later many Bristol panda cars were lying on their backs completely wrecked and blazing away. And because of the insurance changes, they will now have to fork out £40,000 to pay for the damage. Ah well, we do live in the time of cut backs. Perhaps the Avon area Police Federation will be joining their local anti-cuts committee?

Tories concerned

For the paper of the Tory party, the 'Conservative News' spends a hell of a lot of time writing about the Labour Party. In the March edition of 'Con News', as it is affectionately known, nearly two whole pages [out of four!] are on the Labour Party, most of it wailing about how it is full of socialists. The main article is by Norman St John-Stevas telling Jim Callaghan to do something about it. But as he says, Jim should not just get rid of the 'Militant' supporters—it goes deeper than that. What must go is....Clause IV! As Norman points out, "...it is a fact that Clause IV, as it stands, commits the Labour Party to the aim of creating a Marxist State. It is utterly absurd for non-Marxists to continue to allow this state of affairs to go unchallenged." You're quite right, Norman. How the socialist rank and file of the party put up with the likes of Prentice, Taverne etc. for so long, heaven knows. But the situation has not gone unchallenged—democratic reselection of MPs was passed at last year's conference.

Behind the apologies

By
Jim Chrystie

Amidst the apologies and denial of apologies by the British government to Saudi Arabia's King Khaled over last week's TV documentary 'Death of a Princess', one question has been overlooked.

Who is responsible for maintaining this barbarous regime? The feudal dictatorship of the Saudi royal family is an unstable anachronism.

It would have long been overthrown if it had not been sustained by Western, especially American, imperialism. Since the discovery of substantial oil deposits in the late 1930s, American oil companies and their government have backed the Saudi regime.

In 'Death of a Princess', there was one fleeting reference to this. A school teacher told the reporter, who was solely interested in why the princess died, of what happened when 'liberal' airforce officers wanted to get rid of the regime in 1969.

They contacted a member of the American Embassy, who told the Saudi government. The 300 airforce officers were then brutally murdered. They were taken up in planes and thrown out. A similar fate has met any other opponents.

And what a regime it is that US imperialism backs, and the British government is so keen to flatter.

'Death of a Princess' provided a glimpse into the repression of women. It cannot be seriously labelled as a pure Islamic regime.

Contrary to the original liberating message of Islam it keeps its subjects in total subjection to the feudal whims of the Saudi royal family. As the school teacher pointed out, there are no



Corruption and privilege at the court of King Khaled

kings in Islam and the veil was only introduced into Arabia by the Turks in the nineteenth century.

Now, though, women are treated as property and the lower classes as dirt. For committing adultery with a princess, a commoner is beheaded.

According to the documentary she was shot because

of court politics. The King wanted her spared, but her grandfather demanded her execution because 'his' honour had been besmirched. The King relied on the political support of the grandfather, and acceded to his request.

Such a regime cannot last forever in today's Middle East. In the last few months

there have been major strikes and demonstrations in the oil-producing areas, and the seizure of the mosque at Mecca by an Islamic group hostile to the corrupt hypocrisy of the royal court. Western imperialism may well find that, just as in Iran, they backed the dictatorship for too long to prevent the days of reckoning.

SCRATCHING AT THE SURFACE

While in London over the weekend, I took the opportunity of seeing the new film '...And Justice For All'.

It has been widely praised as a well scripted and well acted "film with a message", representing a reversal of the commercialised violence-cum horror trend of recent American films.

The film attempts to condemn the American legal system through example and satire. So it was with a mixture of hopeful anticipation of seeing a hard-hitting political film (and angry resentment at having to fork out £2.20 for my seat!) that I sat down to watch '...And Justice For All'.

I must agree that the acting and dialogue are of a high standard, and that there are some very humorous touches. But what about its condemnation of American 'justice'?

The main effort is directed towards exposing the corruption and racial bigotry of the police and judges.

It attempts to achieve this by following the fight of a radical young lawyer (played by Al Pacino) against the arch-reactionary, Judge Fleming.

Although the film is mainly

centred around these two fictitious characters, it has a habit of suddenly jumping from the storyline to far-fetched send-up scenes of mad judges and lawyers. Despite their obscurity in parts, these scenes to help you bear some of the more tedious parts, where the film drags.

However, I found the film disappointing overall, because of its non-political standpoint. The attacks made on the legal apparatus of the state are far too superficial, lacking in an analysis of the nature of the American state.

The film seems to imply that things would be far rosier if only there were "honest" judges and "honest" policemen. Indeed, one or two

Review of the film
'And Justice For All'
by Richard Bartlett
(Leicester South LPYS)

issues it raises border on the reactionary—e.g. several times it is implied that criminals "get off too lightly" and that the use of parole is too liberal.

As Marxists, we must explain that capitalist law exists solely to serve the interests of the capitalist class, and that 'crime' arises from the social conditions

that capitalist society create.

However, '...And Justice For All' must be welcomed as a good exposé of the brutality and inhumanity of the American state. It's certainly infinitely more worthwhile to watch than 'Zombies From Outer Space' and the other countless, mindless trivia that appear on the screen.

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WE WANT ACTION!

City & East London Health Service shop stewards from many unions set out to lobby the TUC on the 2 April. This had been brewing for some time, right from the start of the cuts in the health service, and was clinched by the vague terms used by the TUC leadership to rally us for 9 March and the coming Day of Action on 14 May.

We had fought many battles against the cuts in our hospitals, yet time and time again the membership would ask 'Where's Alan Fisher or Geoffrey Drain?' They would ask the stewards why we seemed to be battling alone. In their minds, the unions are represented by the TUC and the TUC were doing precious little to help us.

On the one main occasion when SERTUC did move—blacking the conversion work at Bethnal Green Hospital—the effect was so immediate and positive and at such little cost to the movement, although with some sacrifice of jobs by construction workers—that inevitably the membership asked why the TUC did not do more and save the hospital.

We set out by coach from the London Hospital in good spirits, all the more determined in some cases, by Management refusing permission to attend and threatening 'action' if we did. Our journey was enlivened by a taxi chasing us. It turned out to be not management, but a shop steward from St Matthew's Hospital who had missed the coach but was determined to join the Lobby and have her say!

We arrived 30 minutes early to allow time for other

By Myrna Shaw

(NALGO, Bethnal Green Hospital)

stewards to arrive, and we set up banners outside Congress House where we were suddenly joined by three police officers.

In the event, we were not honoured with the presence of Len Murray himself—to whom we had written ten days previously, but were instead allocated a representative from the Social Services section of the TUC. It was here the political lesson for some of our shop stewards really began.

It was like talking to Management. We had a battle with Management to get there. We had waited outside on a cold day. When we were finally inside 'our' building, we were told there were too many of us to be seen together and only six could go upstairs.

We refused point-blank to be split. Management hadn't managed it yet and the TUC certainly wasn't going to. If there were no rooms in that building large enough to accommodate us (!) we would wait in the hall and have our say there—which we did, interrupted by echoing footsteps all the time.

We put our case: the complete lack of leadership given to us during the fights against the health service cuts initiated by the previous Labour government and again during the devastating 'cash limits' of the Tory government; the suffering in the East End, caused by the cuts not only in health but in housing, schools, jobs.

Clearly, all the benefits won by our movement were in danger. Yet according to the Sunday papers the Tories were counting on the leaders of the labour movement not being able to mobilise a fight against their economic poli-

cies. And the public statements of Len Murray seemed not only to accept this position, but also expressed a willingness to sit down and talk with them about it!

We wanted a clear call for a 24-hour general strike on 14 May as a warning shot to the government. We wanted the TUC to begin a campaign of explanation to the membership as to what the Tory policies will mean and of the need to put in a Labour government which would work in the interests of the majority of the working class.

I studied the faces of the stewards while the TUC spokesman was making his reply. It was though they were suddenly being put outside in the cold again, as they were told why it would be 'unconstitutional' for the TUC to ask individual unions to do anything. We could have been back at work again, listening to management as we heard why the TUC could not do this or could not do that.

What was the point of the TUC's existence? Why were they occupying this very large building at our expense? If it was to pass pieces of paper between unions, it could be managed more economically! "The trouble with you lot is that you are completely out of touch with the workers," one of the stewards burst out—to a loud 'yes' from the rest of us.

Every steward felt compelled to speak and the anger and disillusionment came through. Suddenly the protest wasn't only about the health cuts and the East End. The lack of TUC-inspired support for steel and British Leyland workers and other sections in other crafts was raised by one steward after another who collectively came to the con-



Fighting cuts in London's East End—1978 campaign to keep Bethnal Green as a full hospital with a casualty unit

East London shop stewards lobby the TUC for strike action on May 14

clusion that the TUC was either gutless or intent on helping the Tories.

Returning to health, stewards spoke movingly of events in their own hospitals and localities. The steward from St Matthew's justified every penny of her cab fare when she spoke of the geriatric patients lying in that hospital—trade unionists who had made sacrifices and fought for all the benefits now being given away without a fight.

From the London Hospital they spoke of the battles there and why they were asking for a clear strike call and leadership. From Newham and Hackney great anger was expressed and the role of the

TUC delegates to Area Health Authorities was questioned.

But it appeared to be falling on deaf ears. We were losing our tempers, and the TUC spokesman appeared as cool as ever. Wasn't this the heart of the problem? Any real trade unionists with deep links with the day-to-day struggles of the organised working class would surely have flown into a rage at our accusations. But no, cool as a cucumber, as had been Rolan Moyle when he was Minister of Health and we had pleaded with him to save Bethnal Green Hospital.

As had happened on that occasion too, someone appeared to tap the spokesman on

the shoulder to remind him that he was late for his next meeting. A spontaneous jeer went up.

We went back to our coach and somehow we found ourselves closer and more united. We were all agreed that we were going to have to make some changes both in our own unions and in the TUC. We live and work in the East End and we've got a few traditions of our own that need living up to.

'If industrial relations breaks down'

Top management at the Department of Health and Social Security are preparing for battles with the National Health Service staff over closures and pay over the next few years.

The DHSS issued last December a guide to NHS management "if industrial relations break down." It is one of the most reactionary

By Roger Shrives

documents to be tried against a section of workers for years.

The Department claim they are considering first and foremost the "care and cure of sick people." This is sheer hypocrisy from a department which is closing hospitals and wards and has allowed the erosion of the NHS through cutbacks and atrocious levels

of pay.

"Not every member realises that most forms of industrial action are a breach of contract," says the circular. So, they decide, no pay should be received for the period of a total or 'lightning' strike. If "constant short duration stoppages are so disruptive as to affect the whole work pattern," the circular suggests that management should consider sending staff home without pay as a serious breach of contract.

Working restricted hours breaks the contract, and "loses the right to be paid for the whole day." Pickets should not be allowed to operate on NHS premises, they say.

Staff who refuse to cross picket lines or who refuse to work with agency staff, contractors or volunteers should be in breach of contract and not paid. Also they make threats about liability to benefits such as on

redundancy, maternity, etc. as a result of any industrial action.

The department make plans to use volunteers, together with agency staff and contractors to scab on strikes.

Undoubtedly industrial action in hospitals needs to be well worked out to minimise harm to patients, but this is a blatant anti-union circular designed to deal with unrest over closures, pay and working conditions.

The circular has already been used as a threat, in a number of disputes, in attempts to browbeat the workers into submission. They have also used excerpts to justify docking a whole day's pay from union representatives attending meetings for a period of an hour or so.

Trade unionists will undoubtedly fight such measures intended to stop workers using their organised strength to defend the NHS and their livelihood.

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THE BRUTAL LOGIC OF MONETARISM

The Tory government's recent Budget once again slashed public expenditure and imposed a tight monetary squeeze on the economy. This harsh deflationary package will cut deeply into workers' living standards, send unemployment soaring to unprecedented heights, and throw millions of workers and their children into poverty.

These policies, however, are not simply the result of the Tories' hard-nosed arrogance and vicious hatred of the working class. They are dictated by the catastrophic crisis of British capitalism, and reflect a calculated economic strategy on the part of the Tory government.

In a recent article in 'The Times', Professors Hahn and Nield pointed out the fantastical nature of the theory of the "self-regulating economy," with which monetarism pretends to bolster its policy prescriptions.

It would be mistaken, however, to conclude that monetarism is simply an outdated and irrelevant dogma, with no real connection to the problems faced by British capitalism. On the contrary, the policies of the Thatcher government represent a systematic attempt to deal with the catastrophic decline of British capital's industrial base.

Andrew Glyn examines the Thatcher government's monetarist strategy and its consequences for the labour movement

The decline is summed up in the collapse in profitability. Between 1964 and 1978 the rate of profit earned by industrial and commercial companies declined from 12.5% to 4.7%. Any policy for the successful regeneration of industry on a capitalist basis would depend on the restoration of profitability, and the channelling of higher profits into the massive investments in modern capacity which are necessary to restore British industry to a position of competitiveness with its international rivals.

Paradoxical as it may sound, monetarism aims at restoring profitability through precipitating a sustained slump. No sooner had it been revealed that the government's forecast for unemployment next year was that it would exceed two million, than Chancellor Howe pronounced that "even a decade might be needed before the economy was really strong again."

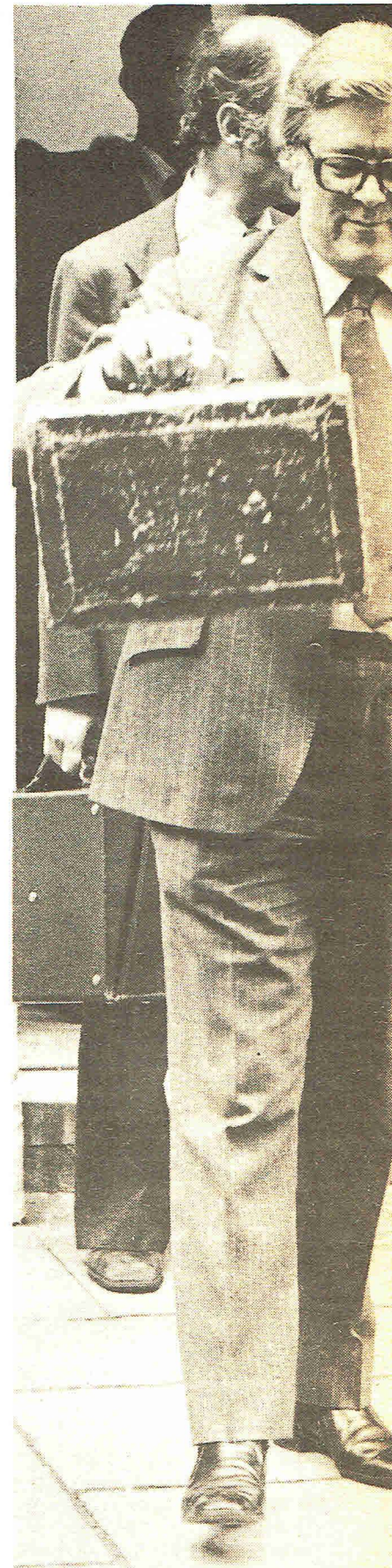
The most important way in which a slump is supposed to restore profitability is by allowing the employers to drive up labour productivity. The idea is simply that mass unemployment, and the possibility of redundancy and bankruptcy,

acts as a threat to help force through wholesale rationalisation. Older plants are closed down. The gains in working practices achieved by the trade unions can be jettisoned and line speeds intensified if workers' opposition is weakened by fear of the dole.

The actual bankruptcy of weaker firms allows the concentration of some of their resources in the hands of the more effective bosses and managements. This is why the reduction of state aid to industry is an integral part of monetarism. It is useless driving firms to the edge of bankruptcy, and then stepping to to rescue them from the brink.

The distinctive monetary aspect of a sustained and heavy deflation is aimed in precisely the same direction. Pushing down demand (by tax increases and public spending cuts) would have less effect in precipitating mass redundancies and bankruptcies if the firms most affected could ride out the storm through relatively easy access to additional credit.

The reduced real volume of credit available, and punitive interest rates, inevitably tend to bear hardest on the weaker firms. So the 'shake-out' of



labour will be more extensive.

The primary role of the deflation is to allow employers to drive up labour productivity. Of course, if that higher productivity was balanced by correspondingly higher wages, not much would be gained. But

Members of the Tailor and Garment Workers' Union on the TUC demonstration [Sunday, 9 March] leave no doubt about their attitude to the Tory government



Photo: J McKittrick (MILITANT)

The Tory Chancellor, Sir Geoffrey Howe, leaves for Parliament [Wednesday 26 March] with his Budget package of drastic spending cuts and a severe monetary squeeze

necessary to weaken the trade unions, they do not think it is enough. So anti-trade union legislation to reduce their power over such questions as the closed shop and 'secondary' picketing complements "market pressures", and can best be introduced when these pressures may reduce trade union resistance.

After all, the monetarists look hopefully to some time in the future when expansion will be possible. By that stage, shop-floor organisation must be permanently weakened, or else the problems of the past will just recur.

The public spending cuts, too, have both a short-term and longer-term objective.

They form part of the deflationary package cutting demand and forcing up unemployment. The Tory package of cuts is distinguished from those of the Labour government by its intended concentration on state employment (as against state expenditure on goods bought from private industry).

This is aimed at creating a pool of unemployed from among those workers who, from the point of view of private capital, are even less productive than those in weak firms in the private sector.

In the long run, however, (though that is somewhere in the 1990s), the objective of the cuts is to 'make room' for the promised investment boom. There is no point driving up profitability if the profits are to be lent back to the government to finance an expansion of public services.

Such expenditure does not add (at least in an immediate and direct way) to the productivity of labour, and interest on the borrowing to finance it just represents a further claim on the pool of profits.

The necessity, from the point of view of private industry, is to ensure that the higher profits are ploughed back into "productive" investment which will increase labour productivity, competitiveness, and thus profitability in the future. Cuts in state spending are a necessary part of such a package.

Whilst some of these processes are only just beginning on an economy-wide scale, in one place they are already operating in full swing. The policies implemented at BL represent monetarism in microcosm, "monetarism in one company" as it were.

The government's policy of limiting the finance available to Leyland has been used by Michael Edwardes to push through a sweeping programme of plant closures. Plants which have been kept open have been demanned.

The threat of future mass redundancies has been used to attempt to force on the Leyland workers a pay deal involving a 15% cut in their real wages. Less well-known, perhaps, is that the proposed pay deal includes acceptance of a 90-page document on working practices aimed at drastically reducing the power of the shop floor.

Finally, the Leyland management has directly attacked the position of the workers through a number of actions against leaders of the shop-floor trade union organisation. The sacking of Derek Robinson is just the latest and best known example.

In 1953 Japan's Nissan Company (Datsun) began its meteoric rise from a run-down

truck producer to one of the world's leading car firms by importing technology from Austins.

The way was cleared for introducing the new work practices involved by provoking a long and bitter strike during the course of which one of the strongest shop-floor organisations of workers in Japan was smashed and replaced by a company union. Now Michael Edwardes is attempting to import not only Honda technology and models, but also Japanese style unions.

However, the impeccable 'logic' of the Thatcher government's monetarist policies from the point of view of the central economic problems faced by the employers is one thing. Whether they will actually work in practice is quite another.

The first point is that the government has no means of knowing how deep and how long the depression would have to be for the necessary rationalisation to take place.

The depression, moreover, has thoroughly contradictory effects. While it may help to pave the way for long-term profitability through rationalisation and wage cuts, in the short term profits are hit as sales fall, competition intensifies, and the weight of fixed costs increases. This is bound to endanger not only the weakest firms but relatively sound ones as well.

No wonder the mechanical engineering working party was reported in 'The Times' (18 February 1980) as believing that "the government is unaware of the impact its economic policies are having on the health of the manufacturing sector." The employers, of course, want the beneficial effects of the slump, in terms of increasing their power over the shop floor, without its adverse consequences.

As these adverse consequences build up, and especially if the promised beneficial effects of policies failed to materialise, the pressure for a U-turn in economic policy will be irresistible.

But such a U-turn could come too late. A heavy and sustained deflation, especially if the monetary screws are turned tighter and tighter, could break capitalist confidence and lead to a much more precipitate decline than was intended.

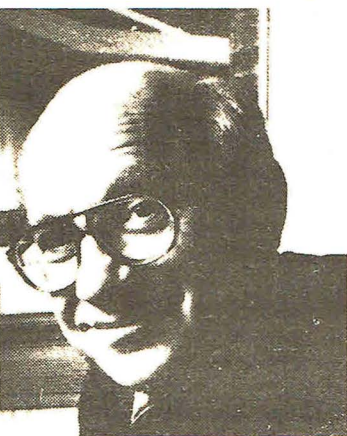
If there is a collapse of major firms or even whole industries, and a further weakening of the position of British industries' vis-a-vis their international rivals, a reversal of the present monetarist policies would be powerless of to achieve a recovery at a later stage.

Even if the necessary rationalisation and weakening of the trade unions did take place



Photo: MILITANT

Sir Keith Joseph [above], the Tories' fanatical exponent of monetarism; [below] Professor Milton Friedman, the guru of monetarist economists.



before such a point, this could only prepare the way for an expansion. It cannot by any means guarantee it.

High productivity is of limited use if you cannot sell what is produced. The world economic depression rules out the prospect of an expansion being led by an export boom. It would almost certainly be necessary for the government to "prime the pump" for expansion.

The West German and other capitalist governments, incidentally, are maintaining high levels of state expenditure in an effort to cushion their economies from the worst effects of recession.

Under the Thatcher government, it is only spending on armaments and also on the forces of 'law and order' which is being increased, clearly with the political repercussions of their current economic policies in mind.

The "natural" rate of unemployment, an idea much beloved by the monetarists, really means the rate at which the employers can force on the work-force a sufficiently high level of productivity and low level of real wages. If this 'natural rate' is to be reduced, the power of the trade unions has to be smashed.

This is the nub of the question, for the most formidable obstacle to monetarism is the labour and trade union movement.

Their opposition may seem rather slow in developing, particularly in view of the drastic character of the Tories' attack on working-class living standards and trade union rights. But Thatcher's government has already aroused greater opposition in its first year of office than the ill-fated Heath government of 1970 to 1974.

One crucial reason for the relative slowness is the lack of a bold lead from the right-wing Labour leaders, who in the last Labour government began many of the policies now being carried to much greater lengths by the Tories.

The government, however, has already underestimated the determination of one group of workers, in the steel industry, which had been singled out beforehand as a relatively weak section. There can be no doubt that this opposition will widen.

Mass pressure from the unions will also be a key factor in pushing the Tories into a U-turn in economic policies.

Mass pressure from the labour movement will be a key factor in pushing the Tories into a U-turn on economic policies, or even in bringing down the government. The resistance of the organised workers, who will not stand back while their living standards are driven down to 19th Century levels and while the 'welfare state' is completely destroyed, will undermine the effectiveness of the Tories' monetarist policies, and this in turn will undermine the employers support for Thatcherite policies.

Already, some representatives of big business, including leading members of the Tory Party, have expressed grave misgivings about the potentially explosive social consequences of the present policies.

This is evidently what Ian Gilmour had in mind when he recently said that "it would be foolish to think we can forget the political consequences of what we do." For taking this line, Gilmour was labelled by 'The Times' as being among those in the cabinet "who know little or no economics at all." But clearly the critics of narrow monetarist policies are those who have the clearest view of the class relations in British society, and are fearful of the enormous radicalisation and mass movements of the workers that will be provoked by the Thatcher government's harsh policies of capitalist crisis.

Photo: MILITANT

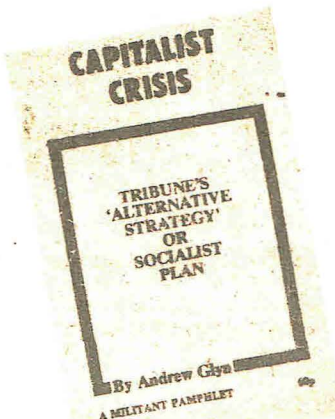
mass unemployment is a powerful weapon in the hands of the employers when it comes to wage negotiations.

Even with a severe monetary and credit squeeze and rigid cash limits in the public sector, the relationship between wage increases and rising unemployment is not so direct as the Thatcherites assume. Nevertheless, they calculate that a period of sustained mass unemployment at unprecedented levels will weaken the trade unions' ability to achieve wage increases.

Of course, they are leaving out of account the anger that will be provoked among trade unionists by mass unemployment, and the enormous power of the labour movement once it is aroused into action.

It is nonsense to claim, as the Tories do, that the primary object of monetarism is to reduce inflation. In a situation of low profitability, price increases are required to restore profitability. The problem is that, with strong trade unions determined to protect and improve their members' living standards, price increases are rapidly cancelled out by higher money wages. The attraction of high unemployment for the capitalists is that it offers the possibility of breaking that link.

While mass unemployment is considered by the Tories to be



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GUNS BEFORE WELFARE

Whereas each country of the capitalist world is now being beset with an economic crisis, the United States has two crises: the domestic crisis, and the crisis in foreign policy. They co-exist side by side and aggravate each other.

The situation is aggravated by a Carter Administration which pursues a highly erratic course, and by the apparent willingness of this President and his entourage to go to the brink of economic catastrophe and nuclear confrontation in order to win his re-election.

Nothing is done on inflation, a warlike mobilisation takes place in the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean, and threatening actions are made against Iran and the Soviet Union over Afghanistan.

In foreign policy it is increasingly aggressive. At the same time it is extraordinarily wayward, so that its allies feel trepidation.

France wants no part of it, and West Germany's Schmidt is angry with the unilateral actions undertaken by Carter without prior consultation with his allies. The West German, the French, the Italian and the Japanese industrialists are not tying their business affairs to Carter's appeals and election fortunes.

But the real test for Carter's ambition lies in his domestic policy, as he seeks to forestall possible alienation before the November election of groups whose constituency is crucial to his election. Richard J Levine, a Washington correspondent for the 'Wall Street Journal' describes this policy as being "in a holding pattern," but goes on to say that "raging inflation...month after month saps the nation's economic strength."

In this increasingly grim setting, the Administration keeps hoping that the onset of a mild recession, combined with its wage-price position guidelines and action by the Federal Reserve Board to control money will produce some relief from inflation.

"Many of Mr Carter's economists no longer believe their own rhetoric," reports Levine. A White House official considers that "The game plan isn't working."

By Betty Traun

The President's attempt to subdue the increasingly acute economic situation by inaction and double-talk was expressed blatantly in a meeting with a group of magazine editors in February. He admitted that the inflation situation is at a "crisis stage", and then told them blandly that the Administration's non-action in halting it "suits me fine."

A snake-oil salesman would be ashamed to peddle such stuff. He told the editors that inflation is a "world-wide awful basic problem," that the US is "caught up in circumstances over which we have very little control, and the cause is skyrocketing oil prices."

This refusal by the government to take action is producing in the people a widespread disillusion in, a disaffection from, and a seething anger against "politics" and politicians, the White House, Congress, state and local government—the entire "Establishment".

But capitalist reaction is taking action: the target is the federal budget for 1980 and 1981. Their objective, repeated incessantly by the great banks and the media, is to gut that section of the budget which deals with welfare. The avowed purpose is to halt inflation.

Alongside of this goes the unanimous support in monopoly capitalist circles for an expanded war budget. The position of the Carter Administration is to serve this military-industrial complex, while cautiously considering the means by which it can cut the welfare sector of the budget.

A 'Wall Street Journal' reporter put the position of the military-industrial complex of the great corporations, and the wealthy in respect to the federal budget with brutal clarity (26 February). As Carter is "already committed to big increases in military spending next year, any major tightening of the budget would have to occur in domestic spending pro-

grammes." CW Carson, vice chairman of Chemical Bank, has put the battle cry of monopoly this way: "The most important thing is more vigorous work on the fiscal policy. We must attack the budget."

What they all have in mind is attacking the welfare items in the budget. Their real war-cry is: "We must attack the people."

Citibank declares unequivocally in its monthly 'Economic Letter' of February, that it agrees with the Administration's budget-cutting perspective which is based on a "steep rise in defence spending" and on the "basic premise that the stimulative impact of rising defence outlays can be neutralised by cutbacks in non-defence spending and a rise in taxes." Non-defence spending means the welfare sector of the budget.

The Citibank Letter points out, "It's possible that there could be over-runs in the defence category [in the budget], as the President's budget requests were put together before the Russians marched in Afghanistan."

"But the real potential for additional outlays appears to lie beyond the 1981 horizon" when "the emphasis will be on missiles, aircraft, tanks, ships and other material of war."

The demands for gutting welfare grow more and more explicit each day now. Wailing that "fiscal policy remains out of control," the 'Wall Street Journal' (22 February) called for cuts in benefits to nursing home residents and recipients of manpower training assistance.

The disabled have already had their benefits cut, and Carter is calling for a \$1 billion cut for the food stamp programme which provides for food for the poorest of the poor. And this is only the beginning of the onslaught.

Because "revenue sharing" is being cut out (a programme whereby the government in Washington returns to the various states a part of the tax revenues derived from the

taxpayers of the country) desperately needed funds for urban transit will not be forthcoming, and public transport has stopped in New York City. Mayor Koch says there's not one cent available to pay transit workers' raises in the face of an 18% inflation.

Nothing the "likelihood that Congress will actually put money behind the President's defence rhetoric," the 'Wall Street Journal' calls for

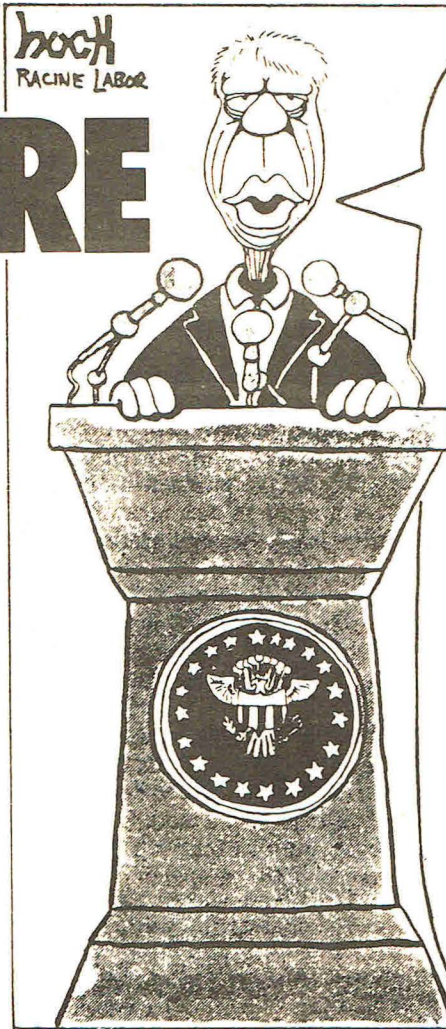
even more money for the Pentagon, for "replenishing ammunition stocks to readiness levels," pay increases for skilled military personnel, increase of the war budget to at least six per cent of the Gross National Product (Carter has a 5% goal) and new and accelerated weapons programmes.

In the first flush of this election-year's patriotism, the war hawks have never had it so good. It is the Year of the

War Hawk. But as inflation mounts to 18% and beyond, the unease of the people is coming to the fore. Many are beginning to see that the enemy is not in Iran or Afghanistan, but right here at home.

In New York State and the State of Connecticut they rejected Carter in the primary election. And in Washington DC 40,000 showed up to rally for a no-draft, no-war policy. It is a sign of things to come.

Cartoon in left-wing American paper



IN ORDER TO PROTECT AMERICAN INTERESTS IN THE PERSIAN GULF WE SHELL REINSTATE THE DRAFT REGISTRATION, SO IF THE NEED ARISES WE CAN QUICKLY MOBILIZE OUR TROOPS THE SOVIETS MUST KNOW WE WILL NEVER EXXONERATE OUR RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE STANDARDS OF A SAFE AND FREE...

Assist German steelworkers

By Kurt Pfeifle (Remscheid Jusos)

The leadership of the German steelworkers' union [IG Metall] are trying to silence activists who are critical of their conduct of last year's steel strike.

One of their most vocal critics has been Herbert Knapp, a union member since 1947, chairman of the works council at the Mannesmann-Huckingen works since 1965, a member of the Duisberg District Executive of IG Metall, and a representative on the union's national wages committee.

The union leadership has begun an enquiry into Knapp's alleged "anti-trade union activities." During last year's steel strike for a 35-hour week and 5% wage increase, steelworkers were only brought out in stages and the whole forces of the union were not mobilised for the struggle. In the end by a narrow 8% majority the workers accepted a compromise deal.

Within the workers' movement, Knapp has been critical of the conduct of the strike, but, as always, he has never failed to carry out the majority decisions. After the strike the Huck-



German steelworkers on strike last year for 35-hour week and 5% pay rise

ingen shop stewards' committee called for a discussion with Loderer, the union President, and for a meeting to draw up a balance-sheet. This has not taken place.

Instead the executive seem to want to take disciplinary action against its critics. This would be a blow against basic trade union principles of free and open discussion within the union.

In Germany a campaign has been launched around the two demands of:

Defend Hermann Knapp Stop the enquiry now. A petition has been drawn up by leading shop stewards at the Huckingen plant and all union members there have signed it.

The campaign is appealing for international solidarity. During the recent British steelworkers' strike, the Huckingen workers collected over £2,000 for the Yorkshire strike committee. And they have also given assistance to the French steelworkers in their struggle against closures.

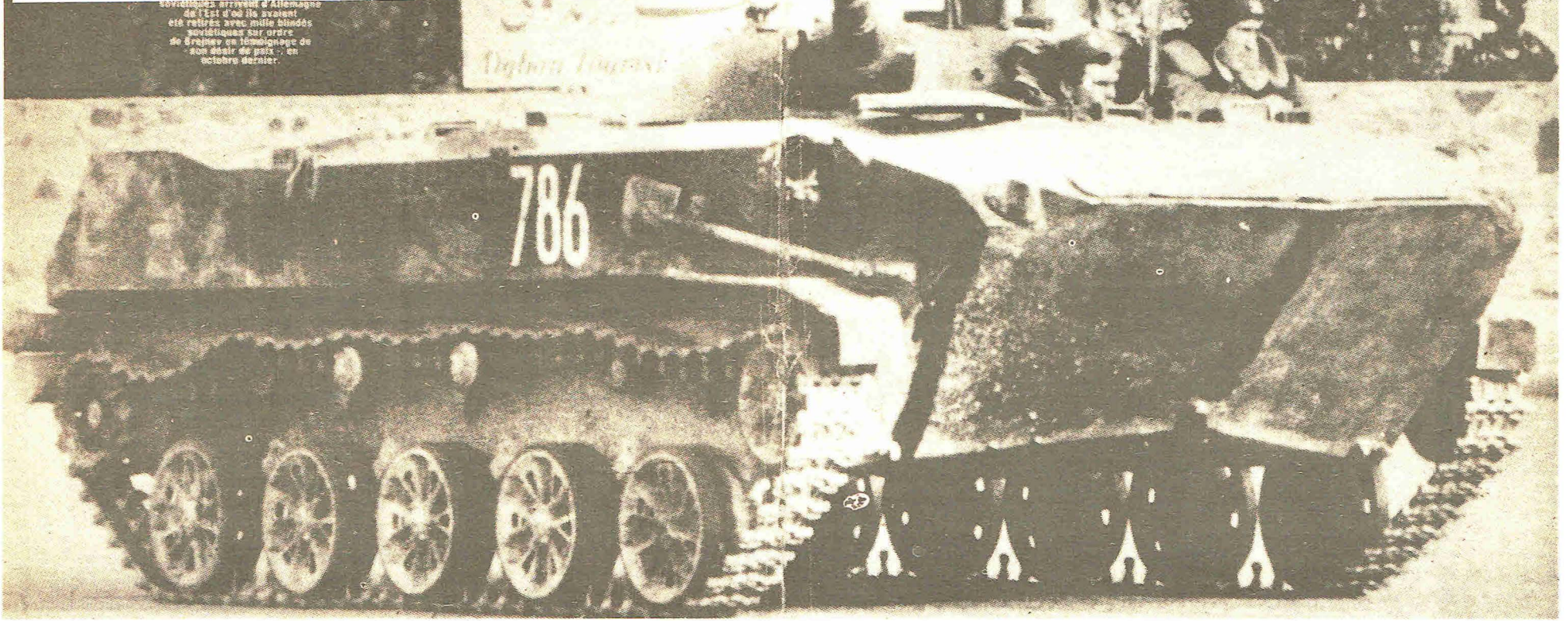
Assistance is needed to help German steelworkers in their fight. Raise the matter in your workplace, branch and shop stewards' committees. Send resolutions of support, donations, etc. to:

Peter Herman 4100 Duisberg 28 Tiroler Strasse 56 West Germany

AFGHANISTAN

AFGHANISTAN-

LES SOVIÉTIQUES ARRIVÉS EN AFGHANISTAN
de l'Est d'où ils avaient
été retirés avec mille blindés
soviétiques par ordre
de Brejnev en témoignage de
son désir de paix - en
octobre dernier.



INVADED OR LIBERATED?

What should be the attitude of Marxists to Russia's involvement in Afghanistan? We print right two letters from our readers (first printed in our 21 March edition) which raise two alternatives and a reply below from Lynn Walsh.

The letters on Afghanistan from Chris Evers and Tom Crow ('Militant' 495, 21 March) raise important questions.

Chris questions whether victory for the rebels would inevitably lead to reaction. Well, the rebel forces are certainly a motley collection of tribesmen and bandits who, although undoubtedly inspired by fierce nationalistic sentiments, are clearly dominated by mullahs and feudalists whose main aim is to preserve the old property and power relations and who could never establish national independence or autonomy for national minorities.

But the crucial factor is that these forces are being used as a cats-paw for reaction by US imperialism which is arming and funding them with the help of the reactionary dictatorships of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, and also, scandalously, the Chinese leadership. If Afghanistan's proletarian bonapartist regime were brought down, imperialism would undoubtedly intervene to restore landlordism and capitalism, and instal a pro-imperialist client regime.

Afghanistan is entirely different from Iran where, as Chris says, "a reactionary religious leadership has been forced to carry out nationalisation and land reform." In the absence of workers' organisations with Marxist perspectives the Mosque, for special reasons, became a conduit for opposition to the Shah's dictatorship.

Under enormous mass pressure from both the peasantry and the small but vitally important working class, the Khomeini leadership was pushed into taking progressive, anti-capitalist measures. In Afghanistan, however, the

mullahs are the agents of social reaction.

Marxists certainly support "the right of nations to self-determination", but in a country like Afghanistan, which because of its geography and history has never been completely unified nor genuinely independent, this general formula in itself provides no ready solution.

The problems of national liberation and social emancipation of the Afghan people cannot be separated from the conflict of class forces beyond Afghanistan's frail borders. That is why the Russian bureaucracy's intervention to defend a regime based on the abolition of landlordism and capitalism must be given critical support. The alternative would be a pro-imperialist regime even more oppressive than (for example) those in Pakistan and Bangla Desh.

Socialist democracy

Marxists must certainly raise the banner of socialist democracy, demanding control of the centralised, planned economy and the state through organs of workers' and peasants' democracy. But in "explaining [as Chris says] that the next step in Afghanistan must be towards a healthy workers' democracy," it must be remembered that in this economically backward country with only a very small, embryonic working class, the move to replace the bonapartist bureaucracy with genuine workers' democracy cannot be separated from the development of the political revolution in the more developed Stalinist states of Russia and Eastern Europe.

or from the success of socialist revolution in the more developed capitalist countries of Asia.

Tom Crow agrees with 'Militant's' stance on the presence of Russian troops in Afghanistan, but disagrees with our opposition to their initial intervention. However, the fact that workers' hostility to the presence of Russian troops is whipped up or reinforced by the propaganda of the capitalist media doesn't alter the fact that it was the bonapartist character of the military intervention which gave the capitalists all they needed to attack the brutal, undemocratic methods of the "socialist" (i.e. Stalinist) states.

Tom says "Russia does play a progressive role in third world countries." This is true in the limited, relative sense that Russia has supported liberation movements and has given economic and military aid to regimes based on the abolition of landlordism and capitalism. But the Russian leadership supports these regimes, and some reactionary capitalist regimes, for reasons of its own power and prestige. In Afghanistan itself Moscow supported the reactionary landlord-capitalist dictatorship of Daoud right up until its overthrow, when they promptly switched to supporting the proletarian-bonapartist Amin regime.

Support from the Russian bureaucracy, moreover, inevitably ensures that the "third world" countries concerned begin their anti-capitalist revolution on bonapartist lines, establishing military-police states which replicate all the essential features of the more developed Stalinist states.

Internationally, the Russian leadership now plays a definitely counter-revolutionary role. It could only play a genuinely "progressive", socialist role if it supported parties or movements basing themselves on the conscious, democratic mobilisation of mass support for an authentic Marxist programme, both in the "third world" and the

Dear Comrades

Although a 'Militant' supporter I found myself in some disagreement with Lynn Walsh's article on Afghanistan in 'Militant' No. 491.

Lynn says that a victory for the rebels would inevitably mean a victory for reaction. Admittedly the rebels are receiving guns and ammunition from Pakistan but I cannot see how this means that the Afghan people will willingly give up the social gains which have been

achieved in the last few years, particularly after the experience of Iran, where a reactionary religious leadership has been forced to carry out nationalisation and land reform under enormous pressure from the masses.

Another point that Lynn failed to deal with is the right of nations to self-determination, which is surely crucial in this situation where the vast majority of Afghans are so manifestly opposed to the Russian occupation.

I would have thought that a Marxist position would be to support the Afghan people in their struggle against the Russian bureaucracy, while explaining that the next step in Afghanistan must be towards a healthy workers' state, a planned economy and peasant ownership of the land.

Yours fraternally
Chris Evers
Islington North LPYS
and Islington COHSE

Dear Comrade

While generally agreeing with your stance on the presence of Russian troops in Afghanistan, I disagree with your paper when it says that socialists should not agree with the initial entry of the troops, because it gives them a bad name among workers in western countries.

Workers in western countries might be hostile to the presence of Russian

troops in Afghanistan because they are told to be by the capitalist press. The mass media here brainwashes the workers to oppose the Russian assistance to Afghanistan.

This does not justify 'Militant' jumping on the bandwagon and joining in with the anti-Russian clamour of the capitalist press. If the Russian assistance to international socialism can bring a little

light to that backward, barbarous country, then good luck to it.

I'm not a member of the Communist Party and do not consider Russia to be a workers' state, but Russia does play a progressive role in the third world countries.

Yours fraternally
Tom Crow
Hillingdon

advanced capitalist countries.

In truth, while the bureaucracy is eager to support social change directed from above and to embrace regimes of its own kind, it fears conscious, mass revolutionary

movements of the proletariat more than it fears its imperialist rivals. The bureaucracy instinctively knows that the development of socialist revolution internationally which would break the isolation of

the existing Stalinist states, would spell the end of their bureaucratic power and privilege—and the establishment of genuine workers' democracy.

MILITANT INTERNATIONAL PAMPHLETS

MILITANT International Review —New issue

Articles on: USA, USSR, Britain, Jack London

China. By Peter Taaffe 10p

Cuba. Analysis of the revolution. By Peter Taaffe 10p

USSR: Bureaucratism or workers' Power?

By Ted Grant and Roger Silverman 30p

All available from World Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN
Add 10p for post and packing

LETTERS

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

Redundancies—are they inevitable?

Comrades
I think the debate on redundancies started in the 8th January edition of 'Militant' and replied to by Bill Mullins, is of major importance to the whole labour movement.

The most frequent objection to taking action against redundancies is that they're inevitable. In my own industry, shipbuilding, we are frequently told that there is a world-wide fall in orders.

On the face of it this is true. But the underlying fact is that the working people of all countries are cheated out of what is required for a civilised

way of life and the majority of workers are short of the basic necessities of life.

If this is so, why is there a slump, when so many are in need and short of work? There is only one answer: profit and not need are the only criteria used by capitalists in assessing how the wealth produced by the workers of the world is used.

In countries which have overthrown capitalism the only restrictions on economic growth are created by the vast bureaucracies raised on the backs of the workers.

As a local delegate for the Boilermakers said recently

"There is not a world shipbuilding crisis but a shipbuilding crisis in the world."

There are no easy ways out—the struggle is a political fight. I believe that when the majority of workers support the ideas of Marxism, the day will be near when poverty and insecurity are dim relics of the past.

Fraternally
J Shepherd
G&MWU shop steward,
Cammell Laird
(Personal capacity)

UNTAXING THE TORIES

Dear Comrades

Nobody can say that the Tories do not defend the interests of the class they represent. Not only the right of big business to attack the unions, using every means at their disposal, (strikers' pay, the courts etc); they also defend their rights not to pay tax.

While they are embarking upon an hysterical attack on so-called Social Security 'scroungers', the Tories' own party has appealed to their old friend the court of 'justice' to get a ruling on the amount of tax they are paying.

After all, if you had just received over £2 million in handouts from big business, it would be foolish just to let the tax man get it, wouldn't it?

Deduction at source is not for them. Faced with paying a

52% tax on ill-gotten gains, sorry—their income, the Tory Party disputed the figures cited by the Inland Revenue.

On taking their case to court, surprise, surprise, the amount of tax deducted was ruled "absurd and misconceived". The Tories were awarded a return of the excess tax amounting to £200,000.

Making the ruling, the judge stated that the Commissioners of the Inland Revenue were placing too great an emphasis on previous legal decisions. After all, why should the law have to be consistent, it is only there for the convenience of big business, and quite obviously now, the Tory Party!

Fraternally
David Churchley
Cathcart CLP

Funerals by arrangement....

Dear Comrades

A short while ago my employers, the National Bus Company, issued an interesting notice granting us yet another concession. In cases of bereavement of spouse, brother, sister, father, mother, son or daughter, the company will allow a day off with no loss of pay in order that the employee may attend the funeral.

A touching example of the benevolence of the company

in times of personal tragedy, we ask? Perhaps the faceless higher management have a grain of humanity after all.

I'm afraid not. The final paragraph of the notice gives it away.

"Wherever possible this will be on a day convenient to the employee but it may be necessary for local management to determine the day in certain circumstances e.g. where service operation would be adversely affected, if the

employee's request were granted."

In other words you can have the day off if it doesn't affect our profits, otherwise you must arrange to have your relatives buried at our convenience.

A small but typical example of the callous stupidity of those who run our lives.

Yours fraternally
Chris Goldie
Brighton LPYS

Edinburgh Labour Party prepares to fight

Dear Comrades

Readers will be pleased to hear that at the AGM of Edinburgh District Labour Party on 25 March, the election of officials was a victory for the left.

With the district elections in six weeks time, it was a lively meeting, attended by 54 delegates from 7 CLPs. A resolution calling for stronger links with the Labour Group on the council was passed.

The District Labour Party has strong links with Edinburgh Trades Council in the struggles against cuts, unemployment and the other issues that face the working class. All district parties should establish such links with their nearest trades council.

In the election of four observers to attend Labour Group meetings, 'Militant' supporter Marjory Bain got the highest vote with 47, and 20 papers were sold at the meeting.

Unfortunately, the Trades Council meeting was on the same night, but we sold 12 papers to the 76 delegates, some of whom already get 'Militant' regularly. Usually the meetings are carefully organised so that they do not clash—there were at least 25 Trades Council delegates at the Labour Party meeting.

Our District Party, I think, should carry out a strong campaign against Tory policies, involving the local Labour Parties, trade unions, the Trades Council and the Labour-controlled Regional Council.

Yours fraternally
Bill Murray
North Edinburgh Labour Party
(In a personal capacity)

'Militant' hits the High Street

Photo: Militant

Dear Comrades

In an effort to boost sales, three comrades decided to go onto the High Street at Littlehampton on Saturday. In an hour they sold 21 copies of 'Militant'—all the copies available. As Tim Gibbs and Jim McEwan, LPYS secretary, said, they could have sold twice as many if they had the foresight to order more.

The YS had a petition against the proposal by the West Sussex County Council Tory Group leader that each child at council schools should be made to pay £30 a year towards the cost of running the schools. Within the hour, over 100 people had signed the petition.

Earlier in the week, three comrades sold 30 papers on a council estate and made up a



new round of 10 regular readers, with lots of prospects to be called back on. During the two weeks ending last Saturday, we sold over 140 papers; previously sales had averaged around 30.

Another comrade in the town who owns a small newsagents shop and has 'Militant' proudly on display

is now selling 25 copies per tant'.

Stan, the proprietor, puts this down to the fact that it is a first class paper giving a bold socialist lead to the whole labour movement. But he also attributes some of the recent success to Reg Underhill and is grateful for the publicity he has given 'Mili-

All in all we are very pleased with our efforts and will be out next Saturday morning selling 'Militant' and collecting more signatures for the YS petition.

Fraternally
Stan Natrass
Littlehampton

The captain deserts with the rats

Dear Comrades

Kent Kraft Mills, near Gravesend, part of the Dickinson Robinson Group, may be shutting down. It seems that even when KKM paper is produced from re-cycled waste, they are still being under-cut by Scandinavian rivals who can sell more cheaply.

Nothing definite has been announced, but it looks grim when the manager of my plant suddenly gets another job in the DRG group and a few months later the KKM manager also finds a better job within the group.

I work in another unit of DRG making plastic refuse sacks from recycled waste

plastic. We are totally dependent on KKM: we use their fitters, steam and effluent plant. Without these we close as well.

It's funny but when I asked for a transfer to this plant my main thought was that the plant would expand, employing more people and be a good secure job.

I was always told that a captain leaves his sinking ship last, but I don't believe that one bit. I myself think he leaves with the rats.

Fraternally
Mole Chater
SOGAT FOC,
Kent Plastic Sacks

Import Controls—passing the buck

Dear Comrade

The disastrous consequences of import controls on the working class were highlighted in the chairman's report of the CBI's East Midlands regional council meeting.

A grim picture of trade prospects in the East Midlands, traditionally an area of prosperity, was depicted.

Even more significantly, the chairman said "In the High Street there has been a marked fall-off in business since the end of the January sales—and some of those stretched on for a couple of months. Things have reached the stage where we are faced by what is virtually a consu-

mer strike."

If import controls were imposed on textiles and footwear this would reduce the range of cheaper goods available—in effect a price rise—at a time when there is a 'consumer strike'. This can only lead to redundancies amongst shop workers.

The spectre of unemployment must be vanquished and not allowed to pass from one section of workers to another—which would be the result of import controls.

Yours comradely
John Merrell
Leicester West CLP

Printworkers challenge a common enemy

Dear Militant

On 17th March Joe Wade, the general secretary of the National Graphical Association, the printers' union, addressed the Weymouth branch. There was an over 50% turn-out of approximately 60-70 members, which in a rural area where many members had to travel 10 miles, was exceptionally good.

Joe Wade first outlined our claim for an £80 minimum wage and 37½ hour week and then reported on the negotiations with the British Printing Industries Federation so far.

Negotiations have been tough and at one point the BPIF threatened to sack the entire NGA membership. They have also demanded many strings including flexibility and shorter training periods for non-union members wishing to move in.

Unfortunately the leaders of the two other print unions, SOGAT and NATSOPA, who were jointly negotiating with the NGA, have accepted the management offer of a phased reduction in hours to 37½ by 1982 and a £75 minimum wage.

In the discussion that followed there was much disappointment expressed that a united fight had been weakened. Some members were quite bitter.

Later a member correctly replied to this temporary setback by stating that whilst we are all workers, blue collar or white collar, one union or another, our real enemy is never fellow workers, but management and the capitalist system. We must fight together to smash capitalism.

Fraternally
Steve Sibley
NGA Weymouth branch

KEEP UP MOMENTUM

Well done! At the end of our first quarter, you have passed the target, having raised £21,009.79.

However, it gets harder from now on! We need £45,000 by 12th July, that is, £1,845.40 per week.

The importance of meeting the target is shown by reports at the week-end that Callaghan is now 'confident' of reversing the decisions of last year's Labour Party Conference. This seemingly stems from manoeuvring by members of the AUEW's right wing leadership, who intend to make sure their delegates support the right wing of the Labour Party.

As the right wing in various unions lose their support, they may attempt by bureaucratic means to maintain their control, but a major shift to the left is taking place. It is more vital than ever that Militant is there to put forward its clear ideas.

Eastern supporters were over the target, reaching 113%, and need £86 per week to reach the July 12th half year. This week £44 came from a Peterborough jumble sale and £14 from Norwich.

East Midlands also went past the post with 111% and our supporters there need to let us have £67 per week for the second quarter. J Merrell writes from Leicester 'Three comrades attending a NALGO (Gas Staffs) weekend seminar sold 37 Militants and raised £3.45 in 'extras'. That's how it's done!

From Hants/Dorset we've now had £684 or 88% of the first quarter target. The weekly amount required is now £82 until July. Thanks this week to J Brown and J Sandle (Southampton) amongst others.

Humberside readers are picking up again with P Tebbett (Bridlington) paying us £5 per month and about £20 to come from a Grimsby curry evening. However, having raised only 59% of the first quarter's target, they now need to send us £64 per week on average to break even at the half year.

London East by contrast have really been tapping all sources to reach 120% of the first target. If they keep up the same momentum (£100 per week) this will bring them to the required half year figure. £20 union expenses, £6 from R Allen, and £1 H Ross (GMWU) were just some contributions.

London West head the table with 133% and a weekly average of only £66 to get the second quarter. Thanks, amongst others, to the student comrades who gave £100, Sue Mills (Fulham LPYS) £5, and F Curtis (Ealing).

London South are still lagging behind the rest of London, but have done very well to reach 111%. This means they need to raise £70 per week until July.

Manchester & Lancs are unfortunately near the bottom with 61%, and therefore needing to reach £129 per week to achieve the half-year

By Derrick McClelland

target on time. However, nearly £107 came in this week so it shows that supporters in the area are beginning to get to grips with the task! Thanks to Ardwick supporters (£64), P Felton (Middleton) £7, P Tarbuck (Blackburn) £3, P Leigh (Wigan) £1, Blackpool LPYS £1.

Merseyside raised 103% of the total. This week's donations include £12.50 poster profits, £12 Knowsley NALGO members and £13 from £75 to be paid in from the comrades' sponsored walk to the LPYS Conference. We are confident Merseyside will manage the £113 per week for the July 12 target.

Supporters in the Northern region reached 93% of their first quarter's target. £149 a week will ensure they reach the 12th July target. £5 from J Cunningham of Ashington, £4 from J Pattison Jarrow LPYS, and £15 from a Militant readers' meeting in Chester-le-Street helped this week's total.

East Scotland supporters got 87% of their target, £68 a week will see them clear the 12th July target. Especially helpful this week was £2 from the Woolmet Mine Training Centre in Dalkeith.

West Scotland supporters achieved 118% of their first quarter's target. £82 a week will ensure a similar success for 12th July. Craigton LPYS gave £20, while £5 from J Dobbins SOGAT, £4 G Jardine Barrhead LPYS, and £2.80 from 3 Glasgow CPSSA members all helped along the total.

Southern region supporters raised 107% of their target, and £107 a week is all that is needed to meet the 12th July target.

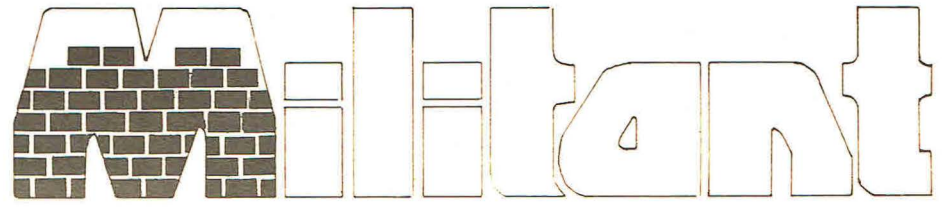
Supporters in the South West got 80% of their target, which leaves £71 a week to meet the 12 July target. This week's thanks to D Moss £8, B Harris £3, both Brixham LP, Chris Pool Kingswood LPYS £4.50, Keith Mahoney £4.55, Rob Filer £2.85, both Bristol South LPYS.

East Wales supporters only got 70% of their target, but £67 a week will still get them back on target by 12th July. 70p from Andy Gill Cardiff ISTC, £13.32 from a Newport Militant readers' meeting, and £9 from a Cardiff meeting, are the sort of donations we need.

Wales West supporters raised only 59% of their first quarter's target. However £79 a week will get them back on target. Special thanks go to K Bevan of Swansea, who sent £4.50 with the renewal of his subscription.

West Midlands supporters have achieved their 107% of the first quarter target by

Build



Area	received	Proportion of first quarter's target	Target 1st. Qtr	Target for year
Eastern	1,131		1,000	5,000
East Midlands	842		760	3,800
Hants & IOW	684		780	3,900
Humberside	294		500	2,500
London East	1,488		1,240	6,200
London West	1,254		940	4,700
London South	889		800	4,000
Manchester & Lancs	621		1,020	5,100
Merseyside	1,237		1,200	6,000
Northern	1,353		1,460	7,300
Scotland East	556		640	3,200
Scotland West	1,183		1,000	5,000
Southern	1,267		1,180	5,900
South West	514		640	3,200
Wales East	392		560	2,800
Wales West	367		620	3,100
West Midlands	1,929		1,800	9,000
Yorkshire	1,177		1,460	7,300
Others	3,832		2,400	12,000
Total received	21,010		20,000	100,000

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

THIS WEEK

£2,051

careful planning. For example, an Appeal Sheet in Birmingham netted us £5.91 this week. An extra £7 came from Telford, £2 GEC Stychfields Gate (Stafford), and £1.80 (F Bradfield, Miner, Rugby).

£163 per week needed from now to July!

Yorkshire also need the same figure to meet the half year target, but this is because they've only managed 81% of the first target. Over £80 came in from Yorkshire this week though, so it shows it's not impossible!

We have an enormous task facing us, the necessity of getting our ideas over to the

trade union and Labour Party activists who are looking for an alternative to the bankrupt policies of the Tories and Labour's right wing. Keep the money flowing in, meet the

target, and we will make sure you have the material you need, to build up even more the support for Marxist ideas in the working class.

MILITANT IRISH MONTHLY
For Workers' Unity and Socialism
April issue now out
Articles on:
★ April 2nd strike
★ Unemployment
★ Labour and Trade Union Pamphlet on Northern Ireland
★ Fianna Fail Budget

10p per issue
6 issues £1.08
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Irish Monthly, 75 Middle Abbey St, Dublin 1

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

MILITANT Northern camp Whit weekend, Friday 23 May to Monday 26 May. Near Heswick, Lake District. Cost: Adults £8, children £2.50. Full details of political programme later. Further details: M Lindsay, 051 922 2318.

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

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

BIRMINGHAM 500th edition rally Saturday April 26th, 12 noon-5 pm. Digbeth Civic Hall, Birmingham.

Speakers: Ted Grant (Political Editor, Militant); Stan Sheridan (Press Officer, ISTC, S Yorkshire strike committee); Clive Gravell (Secretary, COHSE, Kidderminster branch). Plus Venceremos (Chilean folk group) and stalls, crèche, refreshments. Tickets 50p at door.

500th ISSUE MEETINGS

LITTLEHAMPTON
Hear: Dave Farrar. Monday 21 April, 7.30 pm, Friends Meeting House, Church Street, Littlehampton

BRADFORD Hear: Peter Jarvis (Hackney South Labour Party) Thursday April 24th 7.30pm Bradford Central Library.

SWANSEA

'Kick Out the Tories'. Hear: Peter Taaffe. Monday 28 April, 7.30 pm, Dynevor School, Swansea

FOLKESTONE Hear Ray Apps (Brighton Labour Party) Thursday April 24th 7.45pm Labour Hall, St. John's St. Folkestone.

NEW KISMET TANDOORI RESTAURANT
206 Brick Lane E1 [Bethnal Green Rd Road end]
Come and try our special tandoori and curry dishes
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Association of Kurdish students abroad. Folk and revolutionary songs by Sivan and Gulistan and film 'The Voice of Kurdistan'. Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, Friday April 18th 6.30pm. £1.50 admission. Kurdish food available.

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'ALL OUT ON 14 MAY'

say South East TUC delegates



On the march against Tory cuts in Lambeth, November 1979

Photo: Mark Rusher (IFL) II

Two hundred and forty delegates from 150 trade union branches and trades councils attended a conference on 12 April called by the South East Region Trades Union Congress against the Tory Employment Bill.

This is quite rightly recognised as the Tories' main strategy to defeat the trade union movement and ultimately the whole of the working class, a theme taken up by Bro. Dromey opening the conference and repeated by platform speakers, Ken Gill, general secretary of AUEW/TASS, and Bill Keys, general secretary SOGAT.

If this Bill is passed, with its attacks on picketing rights virtually outlawing any effective strike, 'Judas' money for postal ballots, legal sanctions by both employers and the state against workers, the effect has been covered by the Militant in previous articles. Its particularly vicious clauses

By Tim Higgins

(AUEW
Shepherds Bush)

attacking women's rights were outlined by Ann Fields of NATSOPA.

In opening the discussion from the floor, Bro Lorimer (SCPS) pointed out that this struggle was not just industrial but needed a political direction. Bro McCornie (T&GWU London Airport) pointed to Chile as the result of failure of the unions to adopt a clear political pro-

gramme.

Bro Higgins (AUEW Eng. Sec.) pointed to the need for both the TUC and SETUC to declare 14 May a 24-hour general strike which would become a pole of attraction, particularly to unorganised workers.

Sister Jones (Brighton Trades Council) raised the lessons of the steel strike and demanded a future Labour government give an unequivocal decision to repeal this Bill.

The optimism of youth shone through in the contributions made by LPYS members Bro Brogden (ASLEF) and Bro Smith (UPW) in contrast to the pessimism shown by Bro Gill and Bro Keys in their summing up. The present strategy of the TUC is not, as they are trying to claim, "putting leadership back in the workplace," but rather abandoning it. Leadership comes from the top. Control is (or should be) exercised from the bottom.

The main emphasis of their replies seemed to be that there has been a fundamental shift to the right by the working class throughout the

western world.

But the defeat of workers' parties in elections and industrial set-backs for the workers is the result of the labour leaders' right-wing policies, not the unwillingness of the rank and file to take action.

The strength of organised labour remains intact, and events in the coming months and years will bring renewed militancy and even bigger mass movements than in the past.

Our policies must be based on this, not a fear and reluctance to take bold and effective action.

The SETUC has taken the initiative in organising rallies and marches based around local trades councils, by dividing the region into geographical areas with district T&GWU and AUEW offices lending support.

Although final details have yet to be arranged, all activists in the labour movement should direct work-mates to these demonstrations in order to show the Tories our total opposition to being returned to the conditions of the 1930s.

KLEIN MASS PICKET

By Peter Gunn

(Salford LPYS)

With the strike for union recognition at Klein Brothers, Salford, well into its fifth week, the workers' mood and determination has been strengthened by management's constant pettiness.

Only this week personal belongings left inside the factory were dumped onto the pavement outside. "This is the last thing he can think of doing to us," one worker commented. "He has done everything else."

A meeting was held last week between union officials and management, but no progress was made.

Management has once again accused a small minority

of the workers of provoking the dispute. The 70 strikers have treated this with the contempt it deserves.

Despite all this, the workers are resolved to continue the fight until they win recognition for the Tailor and Garment Workers Union.

Last week, engineers and other local trade unionists joined the sacked workers on the picket line, in an attempt to step up the pressure. Another mass picket is planned for Friday 18th.

Support for the strike continues to grow; all moral and financial help would be welcomed: cheques payable to NUT&GW, c/o 84 Eleanor Cudderdorf Court, Silk Street Salford M3 6HW.

Alan Smith workers will win -with your help

By
David Wilkinson
(AUEW Shop Steward,
Alan Smith Group,
Nottingham)

We've seen the winter out, picket line catarrh is disappearing and deckchairs are replacing makeshift wooden benches. Determination to win the strike is still strong but after 13 weeks you can see the strain on the faces.

Mounting unpaid bills means that the hardship committee will be working overtime this weekend. One picket points out "We are feeling the pinch but the firm must be feeling it a lot more than us."

Our jobs haven't been advertised. We know that to find some of the specialised skills they have forced on to the picket line must be very hard. The local job centres have refused to display job vacancies for the Alan Smith Group.

There is a meeting on Tuesday 15th between the Engineering Employers' Federation and union full-time

officials. We don't know what the outcome will be but our mandate is still: reinstatement of our convenor Roy Bennett, reinstatement of all sacked strikers with continuity of employment, with further talks to resolve problems which existed before the strike.

We are confident that we will win but not optimistic about these initial talks.

The struggle will go on but we need help from everywhere we can get it. The lads would like to thank the comrades who donated £116.60 at the LPYS conference. The YS branches in this area have been giving us tremendous support.

We would particularly welcome donations from other AUEW branches and shop stewards' committees as well as from other trade unions and labour organisations. One example of trade union solidarity is that every week a brother from Brockworth in Gloucester sends us at least £5. Thank-you brother!

The struggle is now a basic fight for trade union rights. We have to carry on for our sake and for other trade unionists.

NALGO SHOCK THE BOSSES

By Len Cooksey

(NALGO South Yorkshire County Council branch)

The recent action by NALGO's local government clerical workers for payment of the comparability settlement has amazed many people. NALGO members have in many cases taken industrial action for the first time in their lives, and have seen what power they have.

We have also shocked the 'Local Government Chronicle', an employers' journal we get free at work. An editorial states:

"It is one thing to demand a fair deal for staff in local government and call for comparability with the private sector. It is quite another to back that demand with industrial action...."

O.K. lads, shout but don't do anything.

"The leadership of NALGO which is normally among the best to be found in the trade union movement...."

Weak, ineffectual and pushed around by the employers. "...should not be fooled by

the hysteria of the mass meeting....when in true revivalist style the faithful were called up to join the platform."

Ignore the feelings of ordinary workers, sit back and come to some 'moderate' deal.

"Let them ballot the membership on industrial action. They might get a shock."

i.e. call off industrial action—defuse the situation. Let us in the media persuade, bully and intimidate the middle and higher ranks of the union.

Our branch held its largest ever mass meeting and the call for industrial action was unanimously adopted. A threat of action saw the employers cave in.

Now the July 1980 settlement looms up. We must fight for a demand such as that put forward by the Leeds Branch:

★ £1,000 + 5% for all grades.

★ 25 days minimum leave.

★ 35-hour week with no loss of pay.

Universal Grinding Wheel

By an ASTMS member
(Stafford LPYS)

A meeting of 300 manual workers at Universal Grinding Wheel, Stafford, was held on Good Friday to hear the G&MWU convenor relate management's failure to meet a claim for a 'cost of living' increase of about 20%.

At the last stage of procedure, management's 'final' offer was 12%.

A 'job evaluation' scheme agreed last year was expected to yield 7% but did not take place. Now management have the cheek to offer a job

evaluation scheme this year! They also want to offset last year's national agreement against this year's claim.

The workers supported rejection of the offer and decided to apply sanctions. The shop stewards should now contact other plants in the 'Unicorn Group' to prepare for decisive action to win the full claim.

No to redundancies say gold workers

The NUGSAT Strike Committee is stepping up the strike at the Birmingham Assay Office.

After nine weeks on the picket line they have no choice.

Members of the National Union of Gold, Silver and Allied Trades at the hall-marking office are fighting to save 38 jobs.

The membership rejected out of hand management's insulting offer: enforced redundancies and short-time working for those left, except for the non-unionists who have daily crossed the picket line, who would be kept on a full week.

Not only does it appear that the Assay Office management may be deliberately trying to provoke a larger strike in an attempt seriously to weaken

the union, but they told the convenor, Terry Billington, that it was cheaper for them to have the workers outside rather than on their jobs producing anything. That's the logic of capitalism.

Particularly financially, the strikers need support to keep them going. They are now organising systematic tours of the factories in Birmingham, and are even planning a twenty mile sponsored walk to raise funds.

There is a small chink of light, with pressure for a settlement coming from the trade as a whole, in the form of the chairman of the Hallmarking Council.

Donations should be sent to: Bryn Waters, NUGSAT District Secretary, 19-23 Pitsford Street, Birmingham 18.

By Jeremy Birch

APEX-Amalgamation can build a fighting union

Probably the most important debate at this year's conference of APEX—the Association of Professional, Executive, and Computer Staff—will be on amalgamation.

The Executive Council and most branches seem to favour joining with another union or unions. This can only be welcomed.

For delegates, the most important issue of the debate will be to make sure conference decides on clear policies as to which type of union we amalgamate with, how amalgamation will be carried out, and how the members will finally decide on any proposals.

APEX has done extensive research on new technology and many resolutions call for a 30-hour 4-day week as a means of avoiding massive unemployment and sharing out the remaining work to the benefit of all. The union must

By an APEX conference delegate

be committed to adopting such demands as our fighting alternative.

On economic policy, the EC's position is that we should attempt to change the course of the Tory government.

Resolution 51 from Leicester General, demands "the application of socialist policies as the only means of defending living standards and democratic rights." The resolution also calls for action to bring down the Tory government.

The Thatcher government's attacks on the trade unions and all they have won for working people—wages, jobs, the welfare state—are coldly

calculated to help big business and the rich, the people the Tories represent. If we are to defend our members, we must be realistic—we will not 'persuade' the Tories except by showing our determination to fight.

The EC reports that at last year's Labour Party conference it opposed all three resolutions aimed at greater party democracy. Several branches have moved resolutions challenging this. Trade unionists generally are becoming increasingly aware of the importance of the links with the Labour Party, the political wing of our movement, and the need to ensure that it reflects the needs and wishes of working people.

Resolution 46, from British Timken, takes things a step further! From now on, they say, we should close conference not with Auld Lang Syne, but by singing 'The Red Flag'.



TUC demonstration against Tory policies in London last month—APEX must add its weight to the campaign by joining the day of action on 14 May

Print bosses threaten lock-out

The 65,000 members of the National Graphical Association working on provincial newspapers and in commercial print firms are heading for a national lock-out at the end of the month.

Talks on the print unions' claim for an £80 minimum wage and a 37½-hour week broke down in March. The employers had offered only £75 and a phased reduction of hours between now and July 1982.

The offer was conditional on many 'strings' which NGA members felt would threaten their jobs for the future. Unfortunately the unity of the unions was undermined when the leaderships of NATSOPA and SOGAT agreed to recommend the offer to their members.

Since then the NGA has been seeking agreements with individual firms, and over 1,400 have so far settled. In the others—including big newspaper groups such as Thompson Newspapers and Westminster Press—NGA members have been disrupting production in support of the claim.

Over 1,000 are now on indefinite strike and some have already been locked out.

Now the employers are threatening the NGA that unless they put the offer to ballot and end all 'disruptive action' they will be locked out from Monday 28 April. The lock-out will signal the first national dispute in this section of the industry since 1959.

Delegates at the last NGA conference criticised the low basic wage and the lack of progress on hours; they pointed out that the 35-hour week had been NGA policy since 1972. An 'aggressive wages campaign' was overwhelmingly demanded by conference.

That campaign must now be stepped up with immediate action against all the firms still in dispute. The NGA must show itself determined to secure the full £80 and 37½ hours this year.

By Tony Kitchener
[Oxon & Berks NGA,
FOC Holywell Press,
Oxford, personal capacity]

Teachers: behind the Clegg award

With much hullaballo from the press, teachers have been recommended a "massive" pay rise.

In reality the majority of teachers on scales 1 and 2 will receive 18 per cent, half now and half in September. The starting salary in September will still be only £3,800, about £70 a week.

There are reasonable rises for the higher-paid teachers although only a handful of secondary heads will receive the publicised £2,400 a year increase.

The top-line wage recommended by Clegg for the 60 per cent on scales 1 and 2 is £6,669. This is after approximately 15 years teaching! Many teachers will be into their forties before they come anywhere near it.

The most a scale one teacher could get after fifteen years is £5,946.

The civil servants' latest pay deal gives a 20-year old executive officer £4,900, £1,000 more than a teacher's starting salary. The reason is clear—trade unionists in the civil service have shown they are prepared to fight to protect their living standards.

Teachers will have to do the same if we are not to be treated as a soft option. The 14 May TUC day of action against Tory policies should be used as a massive show of our strength and determination.

We still do not know if the employers will agree to the Clegg recommendations, however, or how much they will offer for the 1980 pay claim.

All associations of the NUT should remind the union's executive that members are not satisfied with the recommendations for scales 1 and 2, that the claim for 1980 must be met in full and there must be no deal sacrificing conditions of service or the total number of teacher jobs in any pay deal.

Our union must be prepared to take action if the employers prove as intransigent over this as they have been over cuts.

By Felicity Dowling
(President,
Liverpool NUT)

TEESSIDE STEELWORKERS

'WE'LL STICK TOGETHER NOW'

Already the air in Teesside is returning to its normal level of muck with the steel industry adding to ICI's contribution. The first smoke of the return to work was the ritual burning by the pickets of all the shelters they had used during the 13 weeks of the strike.

On return there was a certain bitterness among active pickets over the weak leadership of the strike nationally and the lack of support from the leaders of the TUC. "Len Murray will have to stop trying to talk with Thatcher and start fighting to get rid of her." But there was no feeling of demoralisation.

"The money isn't enough, but the strike wasn't just over money. If we're a soft touch for the Tories they'll stay clear of the hard ones."

At work there is a war of attrition going on. There have been several short walk-outs in South Teesside. The management are trying to push the unions back, seeing what weak points there are, but with little success so far.

Between SIMA (the Steel Industry Management Association, the majority of which worked through the strike) and steel workers there is a cold tension. At the Divisional Joint Branches, official backing was given to any blacking of lorries that crossed picket lines.

There have been local disputes in this area, as in others, about this. Now the unions' executives must tighten up on it.

Even the steelworkers who weren't active on the picket line say that they supported the strike and there are no complaints against the active members, some of whom still wear badges from the picket line.

On the last day of the strike a group of pickets were heatedly discussing the dispute between NALGO and the councils. One of the leading Labour councillors is an ISTC member and most of the pickets supported NALGO in their argument with the Labour Group.

One picket said, "In the past we wouldn't have cared or maybe we'd have even condemned NALGO but now

that we have been in battle we've got to support other workers."

The unity of unions on the picket line has to be maintained. "If you've stood out in the cold together for 13 weeks we'll stick together now." In the past the joint shop stewards' committee was a bit of a dead body; now it will be revived.

At the end of the strike pickets said to me, "See you on May 14 if not before." The secretary of Teesside Joint Branches, Harry James, made the point, "The main job is to strengthen the union but in the next month the aim is a big turnout on May 14." Already a resolution has been sent to the ISTC Executive urging support for the day of action.

One of the effects of the strike is to break down the isolation of steelworkers. "In the past they played areas off against each other; no more. We fought together at Sheerness, Hadfields, marched together in London and Consett and we'll stick together."

"We are going to make BSC as well organised as Ford Dagenham; that's how a union should be."

Teesside steelworkers talked to Bill Hopwood (Thornaby Labour Party) about the lessons of the steel strike

Sell 'Militant' to your work-mates

Working in the Union

By Jane McVeigh
(NUT special schools section, Leeds)

Many public service workers are forced to fight in defence of their living standards and services while caring for the sick, the old and the handicapped. How should trade unionists combine the two?

The National Union of Teachers' Annual Conference in Blackpool over Easter voted by a large majority to restore the rights of members in special schools to join strikes and other industrial action "according to their own conscience."

Special school teachers have been exempt from any union call for action which has led to frustration at not being able to show solidarity with other union members. No doubt, however, any future action we might take will be decried as attacking the defenceless physically and mentally handicapped child.

The very nature of the job means that special school teachers must be dedicated to the kind of work they do. As someone who works with severely mentally and physically handicapped children I recognise how essential continuity is for the children. But it is precisely these children and their families who are being hard hit by the Tory cuts, not just in education but in the health and social services.

For that reason, the TUC Day of Action on 14 May will be an opportunity for every

worker to take action to show our disgust at the government's policies. It is precisely in national action of this kind, where solidarity is the key, that every section of workers must have the chance to take part.

Special school teachers, in line with others working with the handicapped or sick, will not abuse the right to strike. In fact, in most cases, if the union leadership conducts action properly, it should not be necessary to call special school teachers out—but in any action those same teachers must be involved, with mass meetings being called in the localities.

Of course, if it is necessary for special school teachers to be involved in industrial action, every step will be taken to ensure that the children and their families suffer as little hardship as possible.

At the end of the day it must be made clear that if workers in special schools, hospitals, homes, care centres etc. are forced to take action it is not they who are the culprits but the people who create the conditions that make such action necessary.

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STOP ALL BL PLANTS!

Union leaders must back all-out action

Photo: MILITANT



Leyland workers are teaching Michael Edwardes and his Tory backers a lesson in trade union power. 15,000 workers are saying 'so far and no further.'

Management thought that the Leyland workforce had been covered once and for all. The closure of the Speke plant, the planned 25,000 redundancies and the sacking of Derek Robinson made Edwardes super-confident. Now their plans have blown up in their faces.

The Leyland workers' £24 wage claim was a 5% insult. On top of that, management decided they could break the power of the shop stewards. The 92-page document, part of the wages and conditions package, was a declaration of

BL workers demonstrating against threat of another 25,000 redundancies, London 9 October, 1979

By
Bill Mullins

(Rover, Solihull, Strike Committee)

war, removing all elements of workers' control over their working conditions.

Middle-management were drooling at the mouth. At last they would rule the roost, and no steward could question their divine right to [mis]manage.

At Rover those same managers now stand dejected at the gate, watching the picket lines. When the workers reported back on 9th April

the superintendent of the Rover Car final line gloated that they had best be prepared for the 'new regime.' Instead the factories have started coming out on strike.

At Common Lane and Land Rover/Range Rover 6,000 voted to strike before the Easter break. They have now been joined by 10,000 more.

Eleven plants are at a standstill in defence of their living standards, their conditions of work and their right to organise. "BL's gamble has suffered a major reverse," was how the capitalist 'Financial Times' politely put it.

Up to now the determination of growing numbers of Leyland workers has not

however, been matched by their union leaders.

Every worker in BL is now clear that the only way to stop Edwardes in his tracks is by all-out company-wide action. But the leaders of the main unions shied away from such a confrontation, even after the ballot decisively rejected management's 'offer.' As if the likes of Edwardes could be convinced by argument alone!

When the Leyland Cars Joint Negotiating Committee failed to take up the gauntlet of leading a national campaign itself, workers in the different plants had no alternative but to launch the battle.

As each plant has been closed, the T&GWU and

some of the smaller unions have made the strike official. Shamefully the AUEW president Terry Duffy has nonetheless instructed his 23,000 members to cross official union picket lines.

Duffy preaches peace, but it is peace on management's terms. And each time concessions are made, Edwardes comes back for more.

The 1,200 AUEW members at the Rover Tysley plant have already defied their leaders' and walked out in solidarity. All Leyland engineers have already defied their leaders' and walked out in solidarity. All Leyland workers must follow suit and join the struggle to protect their future, forcing their leaders to back them up.

As yet, only a minority of Leyland workers and plants are involved. They must link up and jointly appeal to the rest of Leyland car workers to join them.

Mass meetings must be held in every plant still at work to explain the issues clearly. A Leyland-wide strike can still be generated as each plant comes out and receives official union support.

Jaguar may have struck over the new grading patterns and Rover Garrison Street and Castle Bromwich over the taking away of their 'kitting-up' allowance [amounting to a £13 per week wage cut at Castle Bromwich]. The real issue for every worker remains the company's general onslaught on their jobs and their shop stewards' organisations.

The LCJNC must be compelled to stick by their original programme and lead the Leyland workforce into action for our list of demands:

- ★ withdrawal of the document
- ★ a 35-hour week
- ★ wages linked to the cost of living.

A victory now would not only halt management's blitzkrieg. It could mark the beginning of a fight back against the Tories' deliberate run-down of British Leyland.

Every car-worker must now draw the lessons: if this is the cost of running nationalised industries under capitalist management, it's time for a change.

The socialist alternative of workers' control and management with a fully nationalised motor industry is the only final guarantee of a secure future for all car workers.

STOP PRESS

With the number of BL workers out on strike rising to 20,000, BL Cars' managing director, Roy Horrocks, threatened today [16 April] that all strikers would be sacked if they had not returned to work by Wednesday 23rd. Workers from Rover, Solihull, will be picketing Longbridge from 17th. Shop stewards and strike committees must organise mass picketing at all BL factories not yet out.

Combine-wide action is vital.

NHS

Continued from page 1

hospital was going to close despite any protest.

We had occupied the hospital since January in an effort to prevent its closure. We had run it smoothly on a day-to-day basis, but last Wednesday the management were determined to end it.

After their failure with the ambulancemen they tried to get the back gate unlocked. But the keys could not be found.

Then we had manna from heaven—a load of 30 tons of coal arrived. I asked the driver if he was a trade unionist. He said, "Yes, T&G."

So I promptly asked him to dump his load of coal all over the entrance to the back gate, which he did to the screams and threats of the management. So now even if they unlocked the back gate there was no way they could get past the coal.

The next thing that happened was that I received a call from the main gate to say that there was a fleet of private cars trying to break through the picket line. It was then that the police were used to force a way through the picket line.



A policeman grapples with John Nicholson as patients are moved off

I saw one man flung against a wall and a copper started to lay into him. It was only after shouts from the crowd that he stopped. After more brutal police tactics the cars finally got into the hospital, driven by senior management, most of whom belonged to NALGO.

While this was going on, we received a letter from the patients, to show to the press, that they did not want to move.

We had to stand and watch

these "scab" management force patients into cars. Some were so sick they should not have been moved. The sight was pitiful. An 80-year-old woman who was suffering from lung cancer was slung across the back seat of a car with an oxygen mask over her mouth.

Patients were crying and so bewildered. The scene was horrific to say the least. A nursing officer was overheard to say to an elderly patient, "You're going whether you

like it or not!"

Anyway as the management drove out through the picket [which was silent as we thought the patients had been put through so much already] they had smiles of triumph on their faces. In contrast, the patients looked totally bewildered and visibly shaken by the events.

Five patients refused to move point blank, and all sorts of threats were used against them, no food, no medical treatment, etc. Anyway they were left and I as head cook made sure they had food the next day [which I understand the management are going to charge them for].

This then is the reality as the cuts bite. The sick and old will go to the wall.

Last year the bosses and administrators used similar tactics at night against health workers at Hounslow. Now they feel bolder to use the police to defeat hospital workers.

They think they have won. But the struggle at Etwell and Margate will go on. And we will not only be fighting to prevent closures, but also to improve our health services and provide decent conditions for the old and the sick. And that means struggling for a socialist society, for we saw last week in Margate what the brutal logic of capitalism means.



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