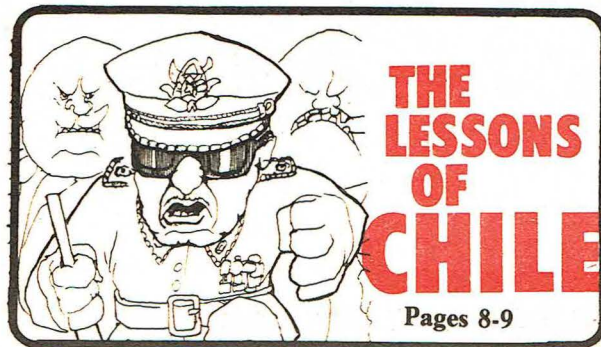


# Militant

THE MARXIST PAPER FOR LABOUR & YOUTH

ISSUE 562  
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15p



# TORIES OUT!

## One disastrous year is enough for working people Force general election NOW

The Day of Action on May 14th must be the first blow of an all-out campaign to bring down the Tories, force a general election, and return a Labour government committed to bold socialist policies.

Despite the lack of decisive leadership from the top of the labour movement, stoppages throughout the country, and rallies and demonstrations in every major city and town, will be a massive demonstration of the strength and anger of the working class.

By Roger Shrives

### Price Lies...

general inflation.

This was only one of the Tories' con tricks. Like Heath before her, Thatcher lied about prices.

The Tory Manifesto said they would "restore the health of our economic and social life by controlling inflation." Prices are now rising at about 20% a year!

"We are anxious that they [young people] will have good jobs and good prospects for the future," the electioneering Mrs Thatcher reassured us. Good jobs? What jobs? Unemployment is at its highest since 1945. Young people face a bleak future. And Thatcher's Treasury advisers are predicting 2½ million jobless by 1983. What "prospects" when areas dependent on steel and shipbuilding are being turned by Tory policies into wastelands? The Wales TUC forecasts 14% unemployment throughout Wales in three years. 66,000 new jobs would be needed in Wales even to maintain the present high unemployment figures.

"We have no intention to raise prescription charges." Thatcher again in April 1979. The first budget put them up from 20p to 45p, then to 70p. In December prescriptions will cost £1 per item.

Doctors are already finding that many patients are asking chemists to pick out the "most important" drugs on their prescription—because they can't afford them all!

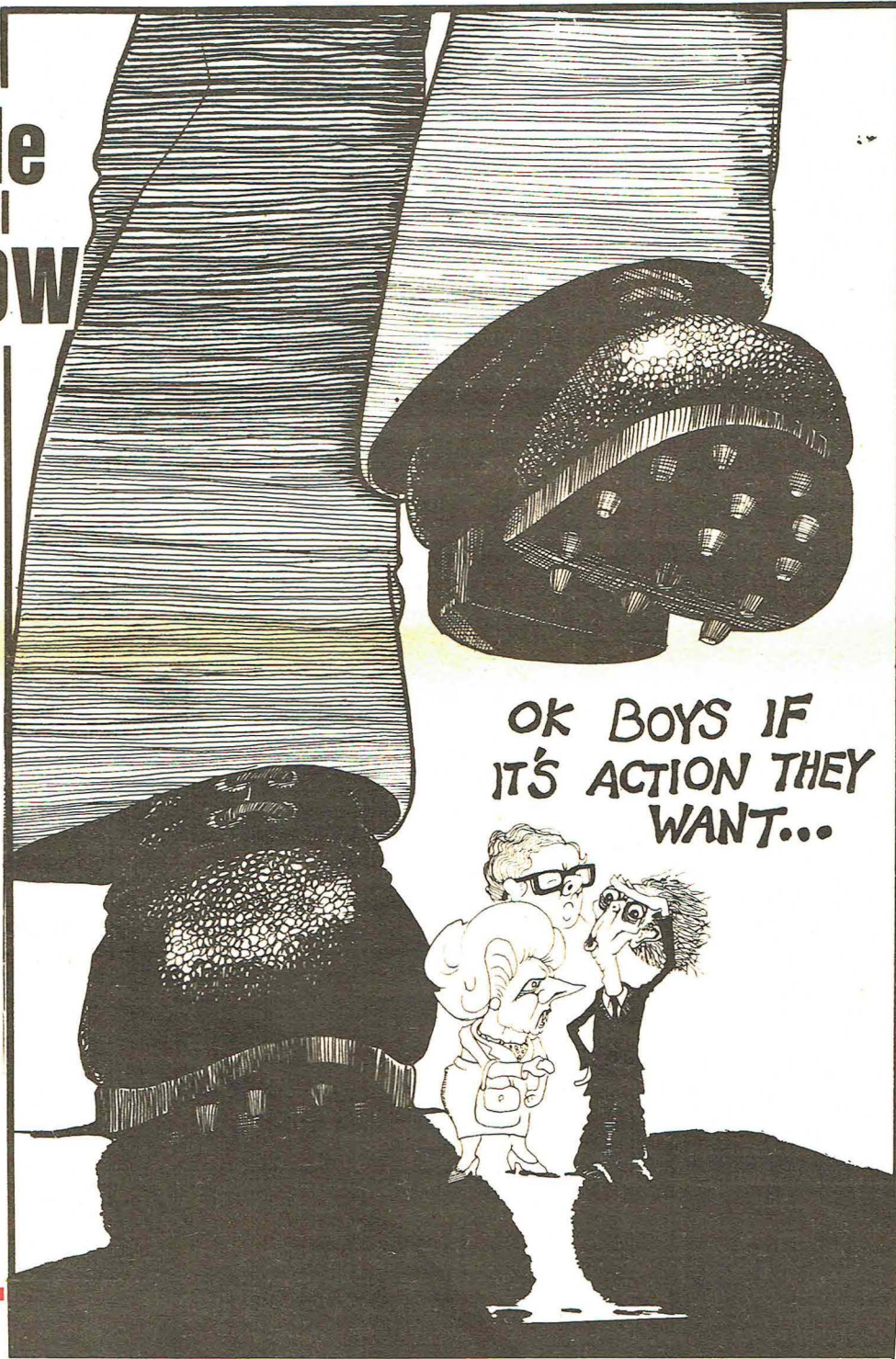
### NHS Lies..

Despite the Tories' local election defeat, Thatcher—who obviously lives in a different world—seems to think her government has not yet slashed public spending enough! But spending on housing is being slashed, with the aim of halving the 1978-79 figure by 1983-84! Public-sector and private house building is now lower than in the 1930s.

### Mortgage Lies...

The Tories offered to lower mortgage rates. They have reached a record 15%.

Prior to the election the Tories denied that  
CONTINUED ON  
BACK PAGE



# LABOUR TO POWER ON A SOCIALIST PROGRAMME

# Militant

1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

## LABOUR NEEDS A SOCIALIST PROGRAMME

The National Executive Committee's statement for Labour's special Conference on the 31 May will be welcomed by an overwhelming majority of the Party's membership.

If the policies outlined in this document were to be implemented by a Labour government, it would be an enormous step forward for the working class. But the question activists will be asking is: will it be possible to implement the proposed measures within the framework of a diseased capitalism?

The statement departs boldly from the line followed by the last Labour government, and is in line with the policies supported at the last Labour Party conference.

Entitled 'Peace, Jobs, Freedom', the document has the sub-title 'How to stop the drift to catastrophe.' The section on the "First Tory Year" is a searing attack on the policies of the Thatcher government, and their dire consequences for working people.

"We are paying the price," says the document, "of capitalist economic decline... We confront a government determined to up-

hold the harsh attitudes and priorities of the market place, where the rich get richer and the poor get poorer."

As with the 1973 Labour Programme, this statement reasserts the need for the next Labour government to bring about "a fundamental and irreversible shift in the balance of power and wealth in the favour of working people and their families."

Labour is "For the public ownership of the means of production, distribution and exchange—against the harsh, impersonal values, inefficiency and waste, of production solely for profit."

The document calls for the next Labour government to give priority to measures to eradicate unemployment, and to implement the 35-hour week throughout industry. It includes the specific demands of North Sea oil, the re-nationalisation without compensation of industries "hived off" and de-nationalised by the Tories, and for the abolition of the House of Lords.

These last three measures alone have predictably provoked a furore on the part of the capitalist press.

While welcoming the bold demands included in this statement, however, many activists within the labour movement, remembering that similar demands were

included in the 1973 Programme, will ask the question: how can all these policies be put into effect?

Here the statement fails to grasp the nettle. While calling for an extension of public ownership it does not face up to the reality that lasting reforms in the interests of the working class are impossible within the framework of a diseased capitalist economy.

Detailed demands [welcome in themselves] for the nationalisation of a number of particular industries—like pharmaceuticals, micro-electronics, construction and building materials—alongside the vaguely formulated general commitment to an extension of public ownership, indicate that the document is not based squarely on the idea of bold socialist measures to bring about a fundamental socialist change in the structure of the economy and society as a whole.

The statement's limitations are reflected in its references to the Thatcher government's economic policies as "foolish" or based on "false thinking", failing to recognise that Thatcherite policies are dictated by the crisis in British capitalism. They represent a deliberate attempt, through attacking workers' living standards and squeezing out some of the more inefficient businesses, to restore the profitability of big business as a whole.

Simply counterposing to the Tories' "mistaken" policies "Labour's alternative economic strategy based on expansion" is entirely inadequate, especially as the underlying ideas of this alternative policy, as the document makes clear, are the old policies of deflation led by increased public spending, planning agreements, price controls and

import controls.

Measures of this kind, which were either uncerebrally abandoned by the last Labour government or attempted and proved unworkable, are still ultimately based on an attempt to revive the ailing capitalist sector of a "mixed economy", i.e. in practice a capitalist economy, in which big business will predominate.

**If the policies outlined in the National Executive's statement were implemented by Labour, it would be an enormous step forward. But the question is: can they be implemented within the diseased framework of British capitalism?**

'Militant' is certainly in favour of reversing the cuts and expanding public expenditure. But the question is how will it be paid for? In practice, a crippled big business, already facing a dire crisis of profitability, will not tolerate the expansion of public expenditure at its own expense. Attempts to revive the economy in this way would inevitably provoke a "strike of capital" on the part of the big monopolies, banks and finance houses.

The basic contradiction of the policy proposed in the statement is reflected in the conflict on the NEC over policies to fight unemployment. Some of the left, like Judith Hart and Neil Kin-

nock, have questioned the feasibility of promising to wipe out unemployment during the next Labour government's first term of office! They are aware that, in the context of a catastrophic slump in Britain and world-wide capitalist recession, it will not be possible for Labour to magic away unemployment.

But the conclusion that socialists should draw from this is not that the fight against unemployment should be postponed, but that bold measures of socialist nationalisation must be taken to eradicate unemployment as soon as possible.

Attempts by a future Labour government to nationalise profitable firms in sectors like pharmaceuticals or micro-electronics would in themselves provoke massive opposition from the ruling class, with the probability of all-out economic sabotage and attempts through the tops of the civil service and the armed forces to undermine and defeat a Labour government.

On the other hand, such partial nationalisation measures would not in themselves give a Labour government the economic power required to solve the problems of the economy and bring about improvements in the lives of millions of workers. In a "mixed economy", whatever the exact balance between the public and private sectors, it is the private sector which dictates to the government, not vice versa.

Big business operates to make a profit, and unless it is getting what it considers an "adequate" return on its investment, it will not invest, expand or even maintain its present level of production. This fundamental fact cannot be changed simply by attempt-

ing to impose parliamentary controls on the capitalists.

Without effective control of the economy, gains [such as on the 35-hour week and the expansion of social spending] which could be made in the first period of the Labour government, which would undoubtedly have enormous mass support after a period of Tory rule, would soon be in danger of being taken back by big business.

## Commanding heights of the economy

The only way to ensure that significant, lasting reforms are made is for Labour to introduce a socialist plan of production to develop resources and production in the interests of working people.

This can only be done by taking over the "commanding heights" of the economy through the nationalisation, with minimum compensation on the basis of proven need, of the 200 big monopolies, the banks and finance houses, to be run under democratic workers' control and management.

This is the socialist programme which Labour must adopt. Linked to such a programme, the demands on the burning day-to-day issues facing the workers, the 35-hour week, the need for an £80 minimum wage for all workers, restoration of the cuts, and the ending of unemployment, would arouse mass support and at the same time the ranks of the labour movement could be confident that our socialist programme would enable the labour movement to put them into practical effect.

## LIVERPOOL: marxist candidates show the way

Compared to the national trend, Labour did relatively badly in Liverpool. Labour seats were reduced from 46 to 40, while the Liberals strengthened their position from 30 to 38 seats, leaving the city with a "hung" council once again.

This outcome clearly comes from the failure of the majority of Liverpool council's Labour group to fight the cuts and put forward a clear alternative to the Liberals and Tories.

In the wards where Marxist candidates fought the election on socialist policies, Labour's position was strengthened.

The virulent press campaign against the Marxists, that is 'Militant' supporters, standing in the elections completely backfired.

Under the 'sensational' headline 'How red is the valley?' the 'Daily Post' (24 April) ran a feature on the newly created Valley Ward.

Repeating all the Tory smears about 'the ugly face of Marxism' and the Liberals' scares about 'Trotskyist infiltration,' 'The Post' attempted to panic voters against Labour.

But the electors of Valley Ward voted overwhelmingly for socialist opposition to the cuts, electing 'Militant' supporter Terry Harrison and two other Labour candidates.

In Arundel, 'Militant' supporter Julie Taylor was re-elected and an additional seat gained for Labour by Pat Grannell. In Old Swan, Peter Lloyd held Labour's seat, and there would have been an additional gain but for the Communist Party splitting the vote on a non-political 'Save the City' campaign.

Pauline Dunlop also held Labour's seat in County Ward.

In contrast, all six Labour seats were lost in the predominantly working-class Abercrombie and Dingle Wards. Clearly the 50% rate

increase, which the Liberals opportunistically opposed (they had supported a 42% increase, but kept quiet about in the campaign), was obviously a factor, especially as Town Hall officials sent out rate notices a few days before election day.

But it was above all in the wards where Labour candidates made no attempts to put forward socialist policies against the Tory cuts that Labour suffered serious defeat. 'The loss of Wards like Abercrombie and Dingle,' Eddie Loyden (former MP for Garston, who was himself elected from St Mary's ward), told Friday's District Labour Party meeting, is the result of decades of neglect by Labour.

The Liverpool District Labour Party is rightly opposed to the Labour group taking over the council, or taking the chairmanship of the committees. Let the two capitalist parties, the Tories and the Liberals, take responsibility for implementing Tory policies. Labour will not do the Tories' dirty work.

The one consoling aspect of Labour's overall set-back is the strengthening of the left in the Labour group, with about eight additional left-wing councillors replacing defeated right-wingers.

Labour's task is now to ensure an overwhelming majority next time round, with a Labour group committed to socialist policies.

The Marxist candidates in last week's election have shown the way. The whole Merseyside labour movement must take up the same clear socialist alternative.

## WHAT THE LOCAL ELECTIONS MEAN FOR LABOUR

Last Thursday's local authority elections proved to be a devastating defeat for the Tories. With control of nearly three-quarters of the big cities, Labour now has a massive basis for stepping up the fight against Tory cuts.

The claim of the Tories' "Golden Wonder Boy", Heseltine, that there would be a revolt against Labour because of the rate increases aimed at cushioning the effects of Tory cuts, has been completely refuted.

Kyle and Carrick, a Tory council in Scotland which boasted of its zero rate increase this year, was kicked out by Labour.

In Preston, the ruling Tory group had succumbed to Heseltine's pressure and reduced its spending and its rate increase for this year. They, too, were ousted by Labour.

Although big rate increases by Labour groups that have attempted to reduce the effect of the cuts through the rates, instead of mobilising a fight against cuts on socialist lines, has dampened the swing to Labour, the support has nevertheless been overwhelming.

Labour had a net gain of 476 seats, the Tories a net loss of 393, the Liberals a net gain of 75, and the Scottish National Party a net loss of 92, leaving it with no

authorities under its control. "Others" (independents, etc.) had a net loss of 71 seats.

With a higher than usual poll for local elections, about 40%, the estimated swing to Labour was 5%. If repeated nationally in a general election, this would produce a Labour government with an overall majority of 10 to 20 seats.

The biggest Labour gains were in the industrial areas of Scotland and the North. Labour now controls 25 of the 33 district authorities in Scotland, and dealt the SNP a devastating blow (though we should not conclude that nationalism is dead and buried, given the period of crisis facing Britain and the volatility of political developments). In Glasgow, Labour took 58 of the 72 seats.

As might be expected, however, the Labour Party made relatively few gains in the still predominantly Tory South, South East and South West of England.

But the political "North" is evidently moving South! Labour made significant gains in the Midlands.

In Wolverhampton, despite this year's 56% rate increase, Labour held control, even taking seats from the Tories. Oxford, won by the Tories in 1976, returned to Labour with a 45% poll.

Worcester was won for Labour for the first time ever.

Labour needed two seats to take control, and in fact won three seats from the Tories.

These results show that Labour has advanced not only in the areas where it fared badly when the last Labour government's unpopularity was at its height, but in some traditionally Tory areas too.

The Tory leaders are now trying to pass off the result as just the usual reaction against a sitting government. But whatever they say, the result is an overwhelming revolt against the spending cuts, particularly in areas such as housing, social services and education.

Labour is taking over more councils just at the Tories are passing legislation to give the central government more power to dictate to local authorities on their spending and especially to penalise them if they step out of line. It is therefore vital that Labour groups, from the word go, begin to mount mass campaigns against Tory policies.

The fight-back must be organised, not on the basis of finding "loopholes" in Tory legislation or through overspending which will be passed on through supplementary rate increases, but on the basis of outright opposition to the spending cuts, linked to socialist policies which would enable Labour not only to restore the cuts, but to expand vital services.

# GET READY FOR LPYS CAMPAIGN

**Step up the fight against unemployment! Join the fight against the Tories! Join the Labour Party Young Socialists!**

That is the message that thousands of LPYS members will be putting out in leaflets on May 14th.

**By Kevin Ramage**  
(LPYS National Chairman)

The TUC day of action will demonstrate the huge power of the trade union movement in this country; power that must be mobilised not only in protest against the Tories but to kick out Thatcher's government and ensure that Labour comes to power and implements socialist measures.

More youth are unemployed now than even during the 1930s—that is the measure of the bankruptcy of capitalism in Britain. 30 years of unprecedented profit making and still big business cannot guarantee a decent job and a decent wage. Half a million young people are out of work and there will be tens of thousands more when 900,000 school-leavers try to find jobs this summer.

After May 14th every LPYS branch will step up its campaign work on youth

unemployment to ensure that the labour movement is warned of the need for the organisation of the working class to take action.

From May 31 to June 7 is a national week of action on youth unemployment. All sorts of activities will be taking place. Bristol YS are calling for Day Centres for the unemployed with free facilities to be provided by the council. They are canvassing the estates, holding meetings, visiting the factories, bombarding the press and media, and even planning to get the proposals raised on the City Council.

A branch in South London are campaigning for Youth Clubs and will be presenting a petition to the council.

In another area, people on the streets will be treated to the sight of effigies of



Young Socialists marching against the Tories

Thatcher and Joseph being given the treatment on the back of a lorry. Hopefully Joseph won't attract the rotten eggs that he normally does!

To help this work the National Committee of the LPYS have agreed to produce a new recruiting leaflet in time for the week of action. The need to join the LPYS should never have been

clearer to thousands of youth. Since the March National Committee meeting over 20 new LPYS branches have been set up around the country.

The LPYS carries the hopes of the youth of Britain, so let's make sure we build it into an effective force. And if you're not a member—join us now! Join the fight to kick out the Tories! Labour to power on a

socialist programme!

- [1] No cuts—a guaranteed job for school leavers
- [2] A £25 grant for all school students over 16
- [3] A massive increase in apprentice quotas
- [4] Useful public work schemes on union rates and under trade union control
- [5] Trade union control of all training centres
- [6] Open the trade unions to

the unemployed

- [7] Open the schools and colleges for evening and holiday use
- [8] Council Day centres for the unemployed
- [9] A national minimum wage of £80 and a 35-hour week with no loss of pay.

## SELL SOCIALIST YOUTH

A massive sales drive has been embarked upon by the LPYS National Committee to launch the new named LPYS official paper 'Socialist Youth'.

The first edition of 'Socialist Youth' appears this month. 50,000 leaflets with quotes from Tony Benn, Moss Evans (T&GWU) and Ron Hayward have been produced and distributed throughout the country to enable LPYS branches to circulate them to local Labour Party branches, GMCs, trade union branches, shop stewards' committees and youth organisations, asking them to take out a standing order—and make sure the leaflets are followed up.

Rallies are already organised in Leicester on 8th May, Glasgow on 15th May, London on 21st May and Liverpool on 29th May. Many other rallies and sales drive activities are being organised

around the country.

Every area should make sure 'Socialist Youth' is used as a direct means of approaching young workers on the May 14th Day of Action.

'Socialist Youth' must be sold on days of action, in shopping centres, housing estates and on the doorstep.

The aim of the YS national committee is to make 'Socialist Youth' a mass young workers' paper.

Sell 'Socialist Youth'! Write for 'Socialist Youth'! Get orders for 'Socialist Youth'! Make 'Socialist Youth' an outstanding success. New and increased orders should be sent to: The Editor, 'Socialist Youth', 144 Walworth Road, London SE17. Tel: 01 703 0833.

**By Linda Reid**

(Editor, 'Socialist Youth')

## YS fund raising gets go-ahead

**By 10 votes to 3, Labour's NEC gave the go-ahead for the establishment of an LPYS Campaign Fund, at its meeting last week.**

This is a decision, which all those wanting to see a strong socialist youth section of the Labour Party built, will warmly welcome. After an effective cut in the LPYS budget, the National Committee submitted proposals for the establishment of a Campaign Fund.

The money would be raised by the LPYS itself. Without extra money being raised, national campaigning work would have to stop due to lack of funds. The £1,050 allocated for campaigns has already been spent!

The NEC Youth Committee, considered the details and endorsed the plan. However, when the matter was raised at the Finance Committee it was blocked, in a move led by right winger John Golding, "until further discussions have taken place."

By overturning the recom-

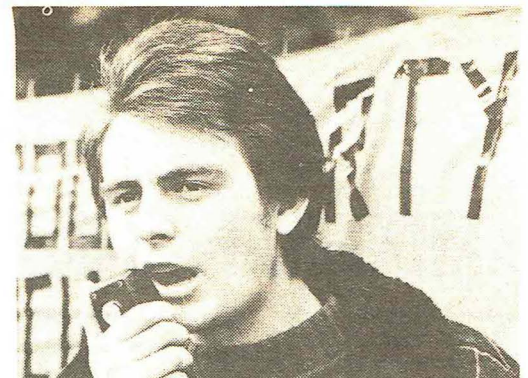
**By a 'Militant' reporter**

mendation of the Finance Committee, and supporting the reference back (moved by Tony Saunois and seconded by Tony Benn with the support of Eric Heffer), the NEC has given a boost to the LPYS after failing to support a justifiable increase in its budget.

The NEC also discussed a motion from Les Huckfield and Doug Hoyle calling for import controls in the motor industry. The motion indicated the catastrophe facing workers in that industry resulting from the decline it faces.

Yet it was correctly opposed by LPYS rep Tony Saunois who argued that "Import controls would not solve the problem. British Leyland, on 1978 figures are the largest single exporters in Britain. Retaliation would inevitably result, on a capitalist basis, which would mean a disaster.

"There is no way out of the chaos faced by the motor industry under capitalism. The labour movement should



Tony Saunois, LPYS representative on the Labour Party NEC

be launching a struggle for control of the nationalised industries and a socialist planned economy. We should also ask ourselves why somebody like Edwardes was put in charge of Leyland under a Labour government. Import controls threaten the international unity of the labour movement at a time when it is needed most."

The motion which urged that "After 1982 all cars sold here should be assembled here." was carried by 10 votes to 6.

Also before the NEC was a recommendation that the previous decision on the Under-

hill Report be endorsed. Those who have tried over the past few months to initiate a witch hunt in the Labour Party failed to even comment on it! For the moment the membership of the party, who are demanding socialist policies to fight the Tories have scored a tremendous success on this issue.

This NEC marked a victory for Labour's youth and indicated the defeat suffered by those who wanted a purge in the party. It also showed the need to maintain the struggle for a clear socialist programme to be adopted by the Labour Party at every level.

## Youth reject the Nazis

After a year of unprecedented struggle against steel closures by the working people of Corby, they were again asked to come

out onto the streets.

This time, however, it was to defend their town against the thugs of the National Front, who were trying to foist their lies upon battle-weary Corby.

Against a background of growing despair of long term unemployment the National Front thought they could whip up support under the slogan 'British jobs for British workers'.

By about 1 pm the counter-demonstration, called by Corby Trades Council, had grown to about 500 people. There were groups from many surrounding areas, including YS members from Luton.

The Trades Council had decided beforehand to keep the fascists out of the town

centre, because they could not be sure where the NF were marching.

It was then decided to march around the town centre, in a circle, and began organising the counter-demonstrators behind their banner. This was hampered by some of the ultra-left who were giving counter orders and confusing particularly the youth.

As the march set off, some fascists appeared on the opposite of the road, outside a hotel.

They were carrying a blue, white and red flag, with a "Union Jack" in the middle, and chanting fascist slogans. At this first show of provocation by the NF, the youth streamed out of the march in

an attempt to "get the fascists".

Several arrests were made at this point, including one member of the Trades Council responsible for organising the counter-demonstration.

This shows the importance on such demonstrations of proper stewarding. For many of the youth it was probably their first march organised by the labour movement, whose responsibility it is to give a clear lead and maintain discipline.

Once the counter-demonstrators had reassembled in front of the Civic Centre, the Trades Council argued that the counter-demonstrators should remain in the town centre.

It had been decided early in

the week that because the route of the NF march was unknown, the centre of the town should be protected from the fascists.

Later the NF appeared at the bottom of the road, and the police began to force us back off the road. One Labour councillor who refused to move was told that his "face would be remembered."

The police had no regard for our "democratic" right to demonstrate and people were knocked to the floor in the melee.

As the fascists marched past, flanked on either side by three rows of police, the chants of "Nazi scum!" became almost deafening. The chants of "Corby, Cor-

by!" showed the fascists they were not welcome.

At the most there were 150 people in the NF march! Yet about 2,000 police were present to protect this motley group of fascists.

Violence wasn't spared as one group of demonstrators were pushed through a brick wall. It was at this point that most of the 50 arrests were made.

The only crime one arrested demonstrator appeared to have committed was that he was wearing an "Elvis" picture on his jacket.

The fact that the counter-demonstrators were easily out-numbered by the police shows the importance of mobilising the whole of the movement.

# Issue 500

## Meetings around the country

Up and down the country the 500th edition of *Militant* was celebrated by meetings of trade unionists, Labour activists and workers, coming together to hear and discuss the clear Marxist analysis put forward by supporters of the paper.

### LITTLEHAMPTON

The first-ever *Militant* Readers Meeting was held at Littlehampton to celebrate issue 500—it raised over £104 and was attended by over 30 supporters and friends.

In a lead off on youth in the Labour Party, **Tim Gibbs** urged the many young people present to get into the Labour Party Young Socialists and help in mobilising the youth of the country to fight the Tory attacks.

Outlining the Young Socialists' Charter for Young Workers he emphasised the fact that one of its main points was that of a guaranteed job for all young people instead of the living hell of being put straight onto the dole from school. Tim emphasised that it was imperative that youth should work with the main body of the labour and trade union movement in helping to build a mass socialist Labour Party.

Secretary of the Littlehampton LPYS, **Jim McEwan**

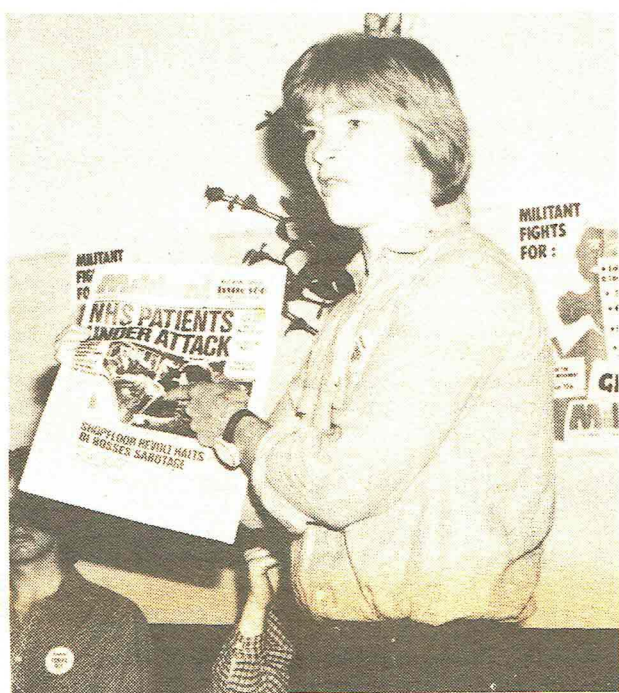
gave what was described by an older member of the audience as a brilliant lead-off on 'Why I am a Marxist'.

Jim told his audience that being a Marxist was not as some people thought, being extreme, unless of course being extreme was wanting a decent standard of life for working class people.

On the contrary he said the "extremists are the people who are keeping thousands of building workers on the dole when so many are desperate for a home; the extremists are those who are cutting the health service, education and all public services.

"These are the people who will have the anger of working people vented on them," and as an illustration Jim held up a copy of the *Militant* showing an elderly patient being forcibly evicted from a hospital closed by the cuts.

By Stan Natrass



Jim McEwan points to the front page story of 'Militant' which shows an elderly patient being forcibly evicted from a hospital due for closure because of the Tory cuts

### BIRMINGHAM

More than 90 people came along to the '500' Edition rally and exhibition rally in Birmingham last week to celebrate this momentous occasion. Stalls included a curry stand, second-hand books, 'jumble', tea and sandwiches and 'Thatcher-shy' (5p a dart at the rotten old Tory—very popular!).

**Clive Gravell** [COHSE Secretary, Kidderminster] spoke about the vicious attacks the Tories are now making, physically on the old and ill.

He said that the two-tier NHS system the Tories want to introduce amounts to an expansion of the Health Service for the rich, and the introduction of a flag-day charity basis for a poor-folks' Health Service.

The very physical structure of the NHS is being eaten away. Past Labour governments under the right-wing leadership have cut away the flesh of the NHS—now the Tories are going to gnaw the bones—unless the force of the



The audience at the Birmingham '500' rally

united labour movement is brought to bear in order to stop them.

Going on to discuss the socialist alternative, he said bold socialist policies were the only answer: "The Tribune road to socialism is a very,

very long one—about 50 to 100 years. How many of our kids would suffer needlessly between now and then!"

But socialism was brought that much closer with a collection for the fighting fund which raised £67.

We look forward to the 1,000th edition of the *Militant*, and twice weekly with 24 pages!

By Deb Grace  
(Selly Oak Labour Party)

### LIVERPOOL

Over 300 people, ranging from founding supporters of the paper to fresh members of the LPYS packed the AUEW hall in Liverpool to hear **Ted Grant, Terry Harrison and Ray Williams** of the NGA explain the history and present role of the *Militant*.

They described the steady development of the paper from a four page, black and white monthly in 1964 to the

present sixteen page weekly. The early years were difficult because the capitalist system was still riding along on the post-war boom.

Predictions that the decline in the capitalist system's profitability would eventually show through, despite the 'miracle' of Keynesianism, were easily dismissed. Being proved right in the end can be painful, when it means

millions unemployed and 20% of our industrial capacity unused.

Ted pointed to the vicious propaganda in the Tory press about the *Militant* put out by the six publishing houses who control 95% of the press. Their attacks are a real vote of confidence in the paper's analysis—the rich know who their real enemies are.

The theme that emerged

most clearly from the meeting was the political difference between the *Tribune* and *Militant*. Ted Grant made it quite clear that it is vital that *Tribune* should be supported, whenever it makes progressive demands.

However, we must never forget that the only political basis on which these demands can be met is a fully socialised economy. The diluted Thatcherism of recent Labour governments is useless and any half-measures of socialism would be extremely dangerous; enraging the ruling class without decisively breaking their power to hit back.

A magnificent £350 was raised in a collection. And the night before, a '500' dance was a great success. The hall was packed

with Labour Party members and trade unionists—even Thatcher was there (or somebody looking remarkably similar) complete in Plunder-woman gear!

By Phil Rowe  
(Liverpool District Labour Party)

## Roy Clarke A Comrade Remembered

It is with great sadness that we report the death of comrade Roy Clarke, who died in hospital in Southampton on Tuesday 29th April.

Roy had been ill for a period of time. 'Militant' has lost one of its staunchest supporters, for Roy was a supporter of the 'Militant' for over 12 years. Roy was renowned for his unstinting support for the paper, whether in terms of time, effort or money. For many years he sold more copies of the 'Militant' than anyone else in Southampton, building up a large round on his estate.

He was always active in the Labour Party, both in his ward and on the GMC, of which he was a member of many years standing. He was an active member of his union, USDAW, both in his branch, from which he was a delegate to Southampton Trades Council, and as a shop steward. In his last place of work, he transformed it from a poorly paid sweatshop to a well organised union shop.

During the last few years Roy had several spells of illness, necessitating time in hospital. But as soon as he could, he would be back into activity in the movement. Through all his years of support for the 'Militant', Roy could always be called on to do more, no matter where or when.

We have lost one of our strongest comrades just at a time when 'Militant' is really starting to go forward. That success is due to the pioneering work of comrades like Roy Clarke. We send our condolences to Roy's family, especially his mother and father, at this time.

### OTHER AREAS

In **Tyneside**, where the topic was the lessons of the 1926 General Strike, the contrast of workers' attitudes compared to today was pointed out.

After the discussion was led off by Jeremy Birch and Alec Auld (an older worker who was an activist during the General Strike) a young bank worker described the growing trade union consciousness of his fellow office workers. Commenting on this, Alec explained how he was arrested and imprisoned for activities during the strike, and was in fact driven to prison by a special constable 'volunteer'—whose usual work was a bank worker!

About 75 people attended the meeting, and more than £90 was raised for the fighting fund.

At the first ever *Militant* Readers Meeting in **Folkestone**, the speaker was Ray Apps, from Brighton Labour Party. During the discussion that followed a young unem-

ployed worker described the anger and helplessness he felt after going straight onto the dole after leaving school. He said he decided to come to the meeting after being given a leaflet on the dole queue.

At the **Teesside** meeting, a discussion developed around the demand for a 24-hour general strike on May 14, as opposed to a call for an all-out general strike. £45 was raised for the fighting fund.

In **Brighton**, an excellent £114, including IOUs, was raised for the fighting fund, after a lead off by Dave Farrar.

And at the '500' meeting in Manchester, many local trade unionists were among the 40 strong audience who heard Roger Shrivies outline the policies of the *Militant*. £49 was raised.

Similarly successful meetings were held in **Bradford, Paddington and Newham**. More *Militant* '500' reports next week!

### SWANSEA

The *Militant* Readers' Meeting held in Swansea on Monday night was by far the biggest meeting ever organised by supporters of the paper in this area.

150 people packed out the hall to hear Peter Taaffe, editor of *Militant*, spell out the Marxist policies which *Militant* has fought for since it was first published in 1964.

The extremely enthusiastic meeting, with a large number of older trade

unionists in the audience was chaired by Muriel Browning who has supported the ideas of *Militant* throughout its existence.

£224 was collected for the *Militant* fighting fund before expenses. The meeting is an indication of the effect that the ideas of *Militant* can have in a period of heightened class conflict.

By Rob Sewell  
(Swansea Labour Party)

# LEFT and RIGHT

## Cuts— good for business

Increased prescription charges are forcing poor patients with chronic illnesses to refuse drugs prescribed for them by their doctors. "Some patients prescribed, say, four drugs are saying to their chemists they can only afford two of them," said Mr Alan Smith, chief executive of the Pharmaceutical services negotiating committee [*'Guardian'* 24 April]. Never mind, the pharmaceutical multi-nationals have already taken this into account. "...a beefing up of the balance sheet might be on the way in preparation for a Glaxo move into retailing—the high prescription drugs" [*'Sunday Times Business News'* 13 April]. Can anyone dare deny that the Tories are the government of big business?

## Fairy tales

"The British public should realise that the losses caused by the Day of Action would be enough to build seven major hospitals or 155 1,000 pupil schools or over 100 miles of motorway."

That was the rubbish talked by Walter Goldsmith, director-general of the Institute of Directors. Does he really believe that this will happen if the Day of Action is cancelled?

What Goldsmith ignores is that workers are taking action on May 14th because the Tories, in order to help their system, are cutting back on social services, hospitals, schools, etc.

And what hypocrisy. According to Goldsmith's logic, we should now expect capitalism to start building in the next 365 days, 2,555 hospitals, or 56,575 schools or 365,500 miles of motorway.

Or will the profits made by the workers be used by the capitalist class for their benefit? Does anyone really need to wait and see what happens over the next year for the answer?

## Palaces and slums

"No living space, no crowning," proclaimed the posters of squatters in Amsterdam last week. Angry at the waste of the coronation of Queen Beatrix whilst thousands of people are homeless, squatters tried to march on the centre of Amsterdam.

They were prevented by the police. But if they had got to the centre they would have found at least one empty building—the Royal Palace—although apparently it is in good order, no-one lives there.

The Queen has two other residences, two palaces in The Hague. Unfortunately they both need redecoration. One won't be ready until the end of the year, and the other will take a bit longer [4 to 5 years] and will cost about 60 million guilders.

But don't worry, Queen Beatrix won't be slumming it. She's found herself a little chateau to "squat" in.

## When a boss gets the sack

The *'News of the World'* on May 4 argues that the bosses shouldn't be scared off by steelworkers angered at the hypocrisy of the MacGregor £2m 'transfer fee'—the reason being that we live in an 'envy obsessed society.' It adds that the steelworkers are mere 'privates' and the bosses the 'generals.'

The redundancy payments to be paid out at Corby will at best be £6-7,000—with the sum eaten up by long term unemployment. So the steelworkers who are to be thrown onto the scrapheap may well be 'envious' of the pay off given to a director of the publishers of *'News of the World'*, the *News International* group. After a mere four years' work with the group, this 50 year old executive on losing his job has been paid 'compensation' of £91,500.

# PEACEKEEPERS?



The scene where William Black was shot. Members of the SAS and Service Intelligence lay in wait in the house on the left, and the window marked A shows the position of one soldier who was armed with a sub-machine gun fitted with a silencer—as Lindsay points out, if the SAS just wanted to arrest Black, why did the gun have a silencer?

## When allegations are made against the British army and the police and their various undercover agencies in Northern Ireland, we usually hear the cry that the allegations are IRA propaganda.

One of the things that sets 'Ambush at Tully-West' apart from other statements on this subject is that the author could never by any stretch of the imagination be described as sympathetic to the IRA.

Kennedy Lindsay is a Northern Ireland Loyalist politician, and was involved in the two Ulster Loyalist stoppages, and is also a founding member of the British Ulster Dominion Party.

The title comes from the shooting on 26 January 1974 of William Black in his weekend cottage at Tully-West, Co. Down, by a special unit of British Army intelligence.

The story of the shooting of William Black began eighteen months earlier on 18 August, 1972. That night, William Black, a member of the Ulster Defence Regiment, the local part-time volunteer regiment of the British Army, saw from his bedroom window three men steeling vehicles. He challenged them and captured one of them.

On arriving at the police station, he found that the three men were members of the British army. He had disturbed an under-cover squad trying to steal three cars (three cars are what is needed for setting a car-bomb). He indignantly objected to his neighbours' cars being robbed, and his wife told the neighbours who had their cars stolen.

From there on, the nightmare began for William Black and his family. He was discharged from the UDR without explanation; attempts were made to shoot him and also his son, who was a policeman, and eventually he was ambushed and shot several times in the face and body by an SAS assassination unit.

As part of an attempt to discredit him, stolen goods were left in an out-house at

**John Throne  
reviews  
'Ambush  
at Tully-West'  
by Kennedy Lindsay  
[reprinted from  
'Militant Irish  
Monthly']  
Order from:  
World Books, 1 Ment-  
more Terrace, London  
E83PN.**

his cottage. Lindsay then goes on to show how various agencies and ploys were used to stifle investigation of the attempted murder.

Ian Paisley MP could not get it raised in parliament as the speaker blocked him. Kevin McNamara MP raised it in an interjection and Ian Gilmour, now a leading member of the Tory cabinet, dismissed the allegations as "absolute nonsense."

Yet in May 1977, the Ministry of Defence paid Black, who had survived, £16,700 compensation.

The BBC also conspired to cover up the issue. "Transfers and new appointments were made from the mainland to BBC NI so that it became almost as firmly a government instrument as, for instance, the army's information office in Lisburn." Lindsay concludes, "The BBC had been integrated into the intelligence and covert operations business..."

What is of much more significance in Lindsay's book, however, is that he shows the role of the different undercover agencies of the British state—DIS (British Security Service), DI6 (Secret Intelligence Service), the police, Special Branch, the Service Intelligence and the Government Communications Headquarters, Cheltenham—and also the role of different sections of the British Army, and not only in Northern Ireland but also in Britain.

He alleges, for example, that the Ulster Freedom Fighters had their origin in British Army provocateurs.

The UFF carried out some of the most bloodthirsty murders of Catholics. He alleges that such activities were used to isolate the Protestant paramilitary groups from the Protestant population.

He makes the case that the British Army blew up the Alliance Party HQ in Belfast in an attempt to influence the outcome of the 1974 February election.

He gives a horrifying account of an interrogation of a Protestant electricity worker which took place in the torture centre at Castlereagh. So terrified was the man, that when he was released after three days—with no charges made against him—he slept with a knife at his bed with which to kill himself should the police return to take him back to Castlereagh.

He describes how screams from the interrogation block have been heard at the desk of the duty sergeant and no one batted an eyelid. He also details the case of a Northern Ireland man who went to live in Scotland and whom the local detectives tried to blackmail into becoming an assassin and an agent for them against the IRA.

In relation to the police in Britain, Lindsay also lets drop the information that in Liverpool when drugs etc. are planted on people by the police this is referred to by the police as 'agriculture.' In Northern Ireland he explains that it is live bullets that are planted on IRA suspects.

He concludes in relation to the role of the British army and the British authorities in Northern Ireland:

"The indictment of this book is not only that the authorities have permitted certain excesses of which examples are described, but that they have deliberately promoted and condoned violence, crime and racketeering in order to alienate both their terrorist and political opponents from their natural sympathisers.

"It has been a clinically planned destabilising and brutalising of the population year after year for both military and political ends."

This policy, Lindsay points out, has continued under both Tory and Labour governments. The plan to murder William Black was drawn up and put into operation under a Tory government, while the decision by the Attorney General to have no one prosecuted was taken under a Labour government. Either the Labour govern-

ment condoned the attempted murder or the Labour government was not aware of the army's activities and acted as rubber stamps for the decisions of the military tops.

The political analysis of Northern Ireland politics contained in this book is clearly sectarian. In one place, the author describes how Protestant families were "driven from" their homes due to "communal tension". He tries to paint the Protestant para-military organisations as good-hearted community groups, also trying to make out that the RUC are helpless by-standers to the terrible deeds of the military.

In spite of this, this book should be read by activists in the labour movement.

The techniques described as being used by the army and the police and the undercover agencies give an indication of what the labour and trade union movement will encounter in the years ahead. The army is being trained and techniques are being perfected in Northern Ireland for use against the trade union movement in Britain in the coming years of economic crisis, when workers will be struggling more and more to defend their living standards.

The recent steel strike saw phone tapping and police action which owes much to the experience in Northern Ireland over the past decade. The press, the television and radio co-ordinated their attacks on the steel workers better for having the practice in Northern Ireland.

Lindsay estimates that 65% of the adult population of Northern Ireland are on British Army files. It is without doubt that these techniques are also being used to compile the names and particulars of trade union and Labour Party activists in Britain. Such lists are not compiled for fun. It was on such compiled information that the Chilean Junta arrested and murdered 30,000 workers when they came to power in 1973.

This book adds weight to the case of the Marxists who have consistently opposed the presence of the British Army in Northern Ireland and their use of torture and assassination. The Labour Party must end the bi-partisan approach, and the labour movement as a whole must fight for a socialist solution for Ireland.

# LABOUR PARTY WOMENS CONFERENCE

## HOW TO GET RID OF THE TORIES

**"It's not that you can't afford to buy a car that is hurtful, but the fact that you can't afford the ordinary things in life—like taking the kids to the seaside, or even the bus fare into town."**

These words, from a widow bringing up a family, express the grim reality of Tory Britain in the 1980s.

This year's Annual Conference of Labour Women takes place at a time of vicious attacks on the working class when women will be bearing the brunt of many of the cut-backs.

As the resolution from NUPE points out, the Tory government's policies on public spending cuts will affect major areas of women's employment, forcing them back into the home and so losing any degree of economic freedom or equality they may have won through years of struggle.

But it hasn't been tough for all women. When working class housewives complain that the family income doesn't stretch very far and they are finding it difficult to get by, they are accused of being bad managers and told to 'shop around' (as if women aren't harassed and overworked anyway) and choose the cheaper cuts of meat etc.

But when Princess Anne says she can't manage on her pittance, she gets an increase of £19,000.

Social Services secretary Patrick Jenkin wants to make savings by relying on voluntary workers and charity. The old work-house mentality has never left some Tories. The Tories' policies mean that more than ever before, women are being forced to look for an alternative to the misery and drudgery the Tories and their system cause women and their families.

Once won to the labour movement, women will prove themselves to be amongst the best, the most loyal and most determined class fighters. The women's sections of the Labour Party can play a vital role in recruiting women particularly unorganised women to the Labour Party.

The agenda of the conference reflects the opposition

By  
**Heather Rawling**

and resentment that women feel towards 'Plunder Woman' and her cronies. But only one resolution on the agenda deals concretely with this issue.

The resolution from Heywood and Royton, Royton and Wardle Women's Sections calls on the National Labour Women's Advisory Committee with support from the women's sections to organise a recruitment drive. This would involve leafletting, rallies and conferences, dealing with such issues as low pay, redundancies, hospital closures, lack of cancer screening facilities, school meals, prices etc., spelling out the socialist alternative.

Already, the Labour Party Young Socialists have shown the favourable response that Labour can get on the streets, estates, shopping centres, factories and picket lines, by arguing and campaigning for their socialist ideas in these places.

Many resolutions express opposition to the Tory public expenditure cuts but do not spell out an alternative. One important step could be the nationalisation of the pharmaceutical industry that Rochdale Women's Sections call for.

The drug companies make millions of pounds out of the NHS, yet their safety record leaves a lot to be desired, as the recent controversy over Debendox (to combat morning sickness) has shown.

The nationalisation of the pharmaceutical industry under democratic workers' control and management would

allow the labour movement to monitor all new drugs and it would also provide vast sums to allow a future Labour government to reverse all cuts and expand the NHS.

The next Labour government will inherit a serious economic crisis from the Tories. Unemployment could be as high as 3 to 5 million. In such a situation, a massive expansion in public services, which the Bootle Women's Section calls for, would be impossible unless the commanding heights of the economy were brought into public ownership under democratic workers' control and management.

Without this, a future Labour government would be forced to preside over mass unemployment, more cuts and the further de-industrialisation of Britain.

Only the resolution from Llanelli Women's Council spells out a programme the Labour government should adopt to combat unemployment while maintaining decent living standards.

This resolution calls for: (a) A 35-hour week with no loss of pay; (b) a reduction of the retiring age for men to 60 years; (c) A minimum wage of £70 per week; (d) A programme of public works under democratic workers' control; (e) The introduction of an enabling bill to take into public ownership the 200-250 monopolies that control the economy.

A future Labour government must be committed to such a programme if unemployment is to be ended forever. It is essential, therefore, that the decisions of last year's party conference on greater Labour Party democracy are not reversed and that the women's conference supports the call for the party leader to be elected at conference.

The Labour Party has recently brought out badges and beer mats with cartoons of Thatcher saying 'Upset her, join the Labour Party'.

Upset her even more by passing resolutions at conference committing Labour to campaign and mobilise working men and women behind a socialist programme that will rid us of Thatcher and the evils of capitalism forever.

**Margaret Creear, delegate from Heywood and Royton, Royton and Wardle Women's section, will be standing for the Women's Advisory Committee.**

**'She is a supporter of 'Militant' and will be fighting for the NWAC and the womens sections to organise mass recruitment campaigns putting a socialist alternative to problems like low pay, redundancies, health and education cuts.**



**Anwar Ditta: Immigration controls are a danger to the whole Labour Movement**

## Anwar Ditta - Repeal racist immigration law

**A large proportion of resolutions on this year's agenda at Women's Conference concern the questions of racialism and the anti-immigration legislation of the Tory government.**

**The new laws will make it easier for the police and immigration authorities to intimidate immigrant workers and their families. The laws are racist and sexist denying the right of women to have their husbands or fiancés join them here.**

**But already the immigration laws are so strictly applied and so dangerous that more and more people are being detained and refused entry. Margaret Creear explains why women's sections in the Rochdale area have been active in the local labour movement campaign to take up the case of Anwar Ditta.**

Immigration legislation is devastating for the individuals concerned. But its potential use against black workers involved in industrial action or political activity shouldn't go unnoticed by the labour movement.

It's almost impossible to prove that you are not an illegal immigrant if the Home Office says you are. They already have the powers to arbitrarily deport anyone they choose.

The only thing which will prevent them from using them is the determination of the labour movement to stop them.

It's in the light of the need for a class struggle not just

against the thugs of the NF but also the legal racialism of the capitalist state that the labour movement in Rochdale has taken up the case of Anwar Ditta in her attempts to bring over her three children.

Anwar's appeal against the refusal to allow her three young children into the country was heard on Monday 28 April and has now been adjourned until 16 May. She was interrogated for three hours at the Appeal about details of her marriage, the births of her children, her accommodation in Pakistan, details which very few people could have remembered about themselves.

She has marriage certificates, birth certificates for her three children, photos of her family, a letter from HMI of taxes to say that after investigation they are prepared to allow a claim for child allowance for Kamran, Imran and Saima, and a letter from Rochdale Area Health Authority stating that she has had four children (the youngest was born in Britain).

The Home Office aren't impressed. As their rules indicate, just because you've got a cast iron case doesn't mean it will count in your favour.

Their whole aim is to keep three more black faces out of the country at any cost. Apart from the effects on the three young children of being deprived of their parents for several years, Anwar herself is on tranquilisers.

The family have been subjected to real financial hardship. Anwar is a home-worker and her husband

works a 7-day week in textiles.

They send £50 a month to Pakistan to the three children for their upkeep. They have just incurred a phone bill of £363 in following up their case. Almost all of their income goes on food. It's over six months since they bought any items of clothing.

Resolutions have gone from local Labour Parties and the Trades Council to the Home Office and the NEC of the Party. The Women's Section has called on the NWAC to support Anwar's case.

Anwar's battle began under the last Labour government, under immigration rules they refused to take off the statute books. The next Labour government must be committed to the repeal of all immigration legislation.

In the meantime the labour movement must campaign against the new rules and defend immigrants threatened with deportation and divided families. Immigrants shouldn't be left to fight this battle alone.

The Labour Party and trades councils in the areas should establish joint anti-racialism committees to take up such cases and to conduct a campaign explaining the causes of racialism and the need for all members of the working class, black and white, to unite against capitalism.

Messages of support and donations to: Anwar Ditta Defence Committee, 127 Crawford Street, Rochdale, Lancs.

### WORLD BOOKS

**CAPITALIST CRISIS—'TRIBUNE'S' ALTERNATIVE STRATEGY OR SOCIALIST PLAN, by Andrew Glyn**

70p +  
10p postage, from World Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

# HOW THEY CLOSED ETWALL HOSPITAL

**The Tories' drastic attacks on the Health Service have not only increased the risk of workers having to suffer serious illness untreated. They have also seen unprecedentedly violent methods used to shut hospitals against the objections of hospital workers, patients and local residents.**

Militant [April 18] described the siege technique used to close Princess Mary Hospital in Margate. A few weeks earlier Etwall Hospital in Derbyshire was closed and the entire village of Etwall virtually sealed off, using some of the methods the police have been developing in such operations as the defence of the fascist National Front in Lewisham last month.

Terry Kelly, the Assistant Regional Secretary covering the Derbyshire district of COHSE spoke to Jon Ingham.

The Derbyshire Health Authority has acted in a most brutal manner in the closure of Etwall Hospital. Ninety-four beds have gone, all the wards closed. The patients, who are all geriatric or terminally ill, were forced to leave the hospital.

The move to close the hospital "temporarily" was opposed by the Community Health Council, local MPs and medical staff at Etwall.

Since December 1979 when closure was announced, the trade unions COHSE and NUPE set up a 24-hour vigil (picket line) supported by the 120 medical and ancillary staff. Support of their struggle came from all sections of health workers, who see the loss of Etwall as a threat to the whole area.

In defence of the hospital, the unions appealed to the public, gaining a petition of 25,000 local people and distributed some 16,000 window posters. Despite this, the closure was to go ahead.

Later in January the area authority started its work by removing equipment, using non-union labour to drive the van which arrived unexpectedly at 5.00 am one morning. However, their first attempt to remove the patients was beaten off.

With support from local hospitals and the trades council, a 50-strong picket greeted the area managers. When refused admission at the main gate, the managers called in the police, who were told that it was a peaceful picket waiting to discuss with any ambulance drivers who may arrive.

But the police picked out Glyn Robbinson, COHSE full-time official, and arrested him for obstruction. Glyn, who had only given Terry a lift down to Etwall from the union's Sheffield office, was taken away and locked up in a very dirty cell for the next four hours. He has been charged with obstruction.

The police attempts to

intimidate the picket line were to no avail, however. Management still failed to get into the hospital. When the ambulances arrived the drivers, all COHSE members, were told it was an official picket line and they simply returned to their depot.

On 20 March a mobile police canteen was placed in the middle of Etwall. Etwall, a small picturesque village, was on March 21, invaded by 120 police. They were marshalled from a mobile police station and sealed off all approaches to the hospital, including fields as well as roads.

This siege cut off the hospital, one farm, a football ground, a housing estate and all main roads for over half a mile.

Only four nurses were allowed on the hospital gate with some 30 others being kept at a distance. As the news spread, pickets from local hospitals began to arrive in numbers—only to be turned away a mile from the hospital. Some even had their cars checked and were done for minor faults.

At 11.05 seven ambulances arrived with only two qualified drivers (the area ambulance officer and his assistant) the other five scabs have never been seen near any hospital vehicle before or since.

As a sign of respect for the

patients, the ambulances, which met a rowdy response on their way in, were allowed out in silence. Many of the nurses broke down in tears.

Many patients, who had grown to know and trust the staff, were also distressed. They were removed against their will. All the patients and their relatives had signed declarations saying they wished to remain at Etwall.

One old, dying woman was removed. An old lady of 98 was transferred, and a patient who has been in a coma for the last ten years was also removed, all by non-qualified staff.

These patients were in Etwall hospital as terminal cases and have been denied the right to die in the

surroundings and with caring staff they are used to. In taking away this right, the Area Health Authority may well be undermining the will to live from many of these old people.

All the 120 staff involved in the dispute had guaranteed jobs to go to. Their battle was not for themselves, but for the patients. The authority, on the other hand, is working not for the public and the patients but for the cuts and Maggie Thatcher's destructive government.

A mass of publicity, including radio and television, has already had an effect. The Chief Constable has been forced to broadcast a condemnation of the Area Health Authority for closing the

hospital and calling in the police.

A campaign has been launched to re-open Etwall, aimed at mobilising public support.

The 24-hour picket was maintained at Etwall for four months, giving the hospital an extra lease of life. But the health service will only benefit if the lessons are learned and every hospital closure is met by total opposition from health workers, and a broad campaign throughout the labour movement and the public.

Defend the NHS! Expand the health service!

## KIDDERMINSTER- deserted by the carpet barons

**Kidderminster was once a relatively prosperous town. Now it faces a gloomy future as carpet factories close and unemployment rises.**

By Clive Gravell  
(COHSE, Kidderminster)

Kidderminster carpet workers on the TUC demonstration in March

Over three thousand jobs have been lost in the carpet industry in recent years, and over two thousand more carpet workers have been on short time during what is traditionally a good time of the year for the carpet industry.

About thirty per cent of Kidderminster's workers are employed in this industry, which inevitably means widespread effects on the town's economic and social life.

The background to this decline is the all too familiar story of languid British capitalism, living off lost empires and monopolistic positions that are increasingly challenged.

Like the employers in the steel town of Corby, the carpet barons of Kidderminster effectively blocked attempts by certain firms to set up factories in the area. In this way, the carpet barons were able to dominate the labour market, and with it much of the town's political and social activity.

Until very recently a job in a carpet factory was the most likely future for many school leavers. But now an increasing number of young people are leaving school, many with few or no qualifications, only to find that those jobs are no longer there.

Failure to invest in new technology and materials, coupled with competition from low priced imports, is devastating the carpet industry. Imports from America have risen dramatically from under 7% to 16%, and it is forecast that by the end of the year they will be supplying one fifth of our carpets.

Predictably, the call for import controls has been made by numerous organisations. But as one brother aptly put it: "Show me the employer who deals with a lazy worker by giving him an easy time!"

Under the present circumstances, with the decay of



British capitalism and the lack of profitability undermining any will to invest, import controls would simply provide a short term breathing space, giving manufacturers, not time to re-equip as is so widely argued, but time to squeeze the last drop of profit out of ailing industries before abandoning them all together.

Only a socialist government on the basis of a planned economy and total control of all trade and exchange could carry out the tasks of regenerating British industry, thus giving a lead to the workers of Europe and the world. As socialists we are international or we are nothing.

A whole generation of Kidderminster people with no recollection of the terrible

'30s are threatened with just such a prospect, but are in no mood to take it lying down.

Their working class ancestors were the Luddites, who have been presented as synonymous with a mindless reaction against progress, the infamous machine wreckers.

### Thrown out of work

But the real target of the Luddites was the way in which new technology was introduced, and its effects on work practices and employment—the new looms were used to de-skill jobs and throw men out of work.

How little capitalism has changed! Perhaps the Luddites had little choice but to

resort to extreme and hopeless methods. But the weavers of today are turning more and more to the strength of their organisations.

A measure of the growing hostility to Thatcher and the system she represents was shown by the magnificent turn out on March 9th.

The mobilisation organised by the Labour Party and Trades Council resulted in five coaches taking workers from Kidderminster to support the TUC march in London—unheard of in the past.

We are now preparing for the one day general strike on May 14th. It is of enormous importance that we make the strike as solid as possible, as a demonstration to the working class of its great power, and a sharp warning to its enemies.

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# Chile-From the brin

**“Be careful. You only live once.”**  
**The notice was prominently displayed on a street corner in the busy commercial centre of Santiago, capital of Chile. It was all part of a campaign against road traffic accidents. But for the great majority of Chilean workers the deeper meaning of the message is all too clear.**

**Eyewitness  
 account  
 of life in  
 Chile  
 today from  
 Jorge  
 Martinez**

Things have changed quite a bit since the eleventh of September 1973, a date that is now burned on the hearts and minds of the people of Chile as the date when the clock suddenly stopped and the film of history began to run backwards, plunging the whole of society into a nightmare of barbarism and reaction.

“You must understand that people here were not always like they are now.” A wistful, almost apologetic note crept into the old man’s voice. He had once been a headmaster, a socialist, sacked like thousands of others after the eleventh of September.

He has not worked since. “No. The Chilean people were more generous, more open, more alive, happier. Now everything is different.”

“Fear?” I ventured to ask.

The old man paused. “Fear. Yes, there is that. But we have had to change. We have had to survive. That is the word. Survival.”

“In order to survive we have had to adapt, change our entire way of life, live on two entirely different levels. It was hard. Many were killed.”

“You know they wanted to kill all of us. Marxism was to be wiped off the face of the earth. They did not succeed.”

“We are still here. But we have had to learn everything all over again, starting from nothing.”

The full horror of what Pinochet’s takeover meant for the Chilean workers and peasants is difficult to grasp. Not long ago a gravedigger in the main cemetery in Santiago reported the existence of 400 unmarked graves. Inside these graves there were often more than one corpse, sometimes three or four.

In a country in which all political and effective trade union activity is practically banned, the heroic campaign waged by the relatives of the missing persons has assumed an enormous sympathetic importance.

“We’ve broken the silence,” one of the members of the Campaign on Missing Persons told me proudly. And it was true.

The public agitation of these heroic men and women more than anything else has condemned the Junta in the eyes of world opinion and, more important still, served as the spark to ignite a growing protest movement in the universities which the Junta observes with increasing alarm.

The campaign of street demonstrations, women chaining themselves to the railings of the Ministry of Justice, etc. has been waged in the teeth of terrible danger. Arrests are repeatedly made. But to no avail.

One of the leaders explained to



**“You know they wanted to kill all of us. Marxism was to be wiped off the face of the earth. They did not succeed.**

**“We are still here. But we have had to learn everything all over again, starting from nothing.”**

me: “When a mother has lost her son, she does not care about her own life. Repression, arrest, death mean nothing to her and she is prepared to go to any lengths to find out what has become of him.”

Had the campaign been successful? The members of the Committee nodded their heads. “Yes. Thanks to our activities we have unearthed mass graves in many places.”

But had any of the missing persons ever turned up alive? An old working class veteran who had lost his wife smiled a weary, sad smile

and said simply, “They will all turn up—as corpses.”

The eleventh of September. A fateful day which transformed the psychology of a whole people. Hitherto, Chile had always been the exception to the rule in Latin America—a little island of stability and parliamentary democracy in a sea of military dictatorships, army coups, terrorism and violence. “The England of Latin America.”

Basking in the warm glow of economic prosperity, the Chilean ruling class was able for a long



Burying the hopes and the class fighters who stood for a socialist Chile.

# to mass graves

period of time to rule by relatively peaceful parliamentary means.

The Chilean generals, nationally honoured for their part in the pillage of Bolivia and Peru, did not intervene in politics as was the rule in other countries. And for their part, the Chilean labour leaders, like their counterparts in Britain, dreamed of a peaceful, parliamentary transition towards socialism in Chile. The eleventh of September changed all that.

“Yes,” the dismissed headmaster continued, “Everything is different

now. In one family you could have had Communists, socialists and right wingers. They would get together, argue about politics, then sit down at the same table and have dinner.

“Not any more. All that is finished for good. The whole of society has been torn apart and there is no putting it together again. Personal and family relations have been transformed in a way which was inconceivable in the past.

“There are families in which an uncle, as an army commander,



# Brink of socialism —



Desperate for land and an end to exploitation, peasants seized large areas of land during the years of the Popular Unity government, 1970-73.

listen to the broadcasts on Radio Moscow (that's what most people listen to) and you think to yourself: but this is not our Chile, not the Chile of the last seven years they are talking about.

"It's some strange place that existed way back in time, but which no longer exists and which will never exist again. No, they have not had to live, as we have had to live, with the realities of this Chile, here and now. They might as well be on a different planet. It's incredible, but it's true."

The members of the Socialist Party who stayed behind after Pinochet's coup were faced with the enormously difficult task of rebuilding the party under the most unfavourable conditions imaginable.

Apart from the repression, the majority of workers were traumatised by the fact that their leaders had allowed them to be defeated without a struggle. I talked to a trade union leader about the problems they faced after the coup.

"Yes, things were very bad for us at that time. Then the workers could not raise their heads. It was a case of every man for himself. You couldn't talk freely to anyone.

"Even a meeting of two people talking in the street was too dangerous. The workers would go into the factories in the morning and leave again at night like an army of robots.

"Whilst at work, they would stare fixedly at the wall in front of them or at the machine on which they were working, too afraid to start up a conversation with the man next door. Who might he be? Who might he know?"

"But now things have changed quite a lot. There is still fear, but it is not so great as before. You can hear conversations in the bars and at work—in hushed voices, it's true, and then only when you know who you're talking to.

"But these are conversations about the things which really matter—working conditions, wages yes, and politics too. The workers have become very politicised.

"They want something different to the present order of things. And that doesn't just mean to go back to how things were before. No. That's not enough.

"Our young people want to participate actively, change society from top to bottom. Don't forget there are thousands of young people looking for work. These young

people can't even remember the names of the old leaders of the Popular Unity."

The change in the situation can particularly be seen in the changed mood of the middle class, reflected in the opposition of the Catholic church in the Junta.

On the eleventh of September a large section of the middle class was exultant. The supplies of champagne ran out that night as well-to-do families in the middle class districts celebrated the coming to power of Pinochet with garden parties, while the Socialist and Communist Party members living in the same streets waited with bated breath for the fateful knock at the door.

Every year on the eleventh, the national flag has been hung out from the windows of houses in the middle class suburbs. But as the years have passed, the number of flags has got smaller and smaller, disappearing altogether in many districts. The Chilean middle class have little to celebrate after seven years under Pinochet.

But the real victims of seven years of the Junta have been the masses of workers and poor peasants. With the outlawing of trade unions, the urban and village masses have found themselves at the mercy of the landlords and capitalists.

The ruthless application of the monetarist policies of Milton Friedman have led to mass unemployment and the virtual dismantling of Chilean industry. While the shop windows of downtown Santiago are crumpled full of imported colour televisions and portable radios, the streets are full of beggars and unemployed men and youths desperately trying to earn a crust of bread by peddling wares. Prostitution, including child prostitution, has increased enormously along with robberies and delinquency.

The conditions of the poorest sections of society, the inhabitants of the "poblaciones" or shantytowns on the outskirts of Santiago, are of unrelieved misery. Houses are thrown up by squatters using every kind of conceivable and inconceivable material: old planks, cardboard orange-boxes and corrugated iron.

Often these houses have no running water, electricity or drainage. The streets are just dust-tracks. I slept in a room with bits of cardboard stuck over the planks which made up the walls, to provide a minimum of insulation against the

cold. The roof, which was also the ceiling, was made of corrugated iron, full of holes (what happened when it rained?).

In this house there was a young married couple, their children and aged grandparents. There were no walls separating the bedrooms, only curtains.

Yet these people were lucky. The husband had a job. The house had running water (cold only) and a toilet. And even in these conditions, human beings contrive to create decent, clean and even comfortable conditions to live in.

Not all are so lucky. We entered the shack of a farm labourer, a man of about forty years of age, his chest destroyed by asthma and the ravages of work in the open in all seasons and all weathers.

The imprint of poverty lurks in every corner of the dwelling. The impression of depression is deepened by the sound of a baby crying.

Because of his ailment, the man speaks slowly, with difficulty, in a kind of hoarse whisper. Yet far better than any polished orator he conveyed the burning sense of injustice and indignation of the most oppressed and downtrodden layers of society.

"It has been hard. Very hard. I know. I have done all kinds of work. The wages are a pittance. Sometimes the landowner raises the wages of some of the men, but mine always stay the same."

He pauses, then adds proudly, "That's because I've never been afraid to speak my mind. So they keep me on the minimum wage."

"The bosses keep us down in all kinds of ways. Like sending you to work in fields miles away from your home. You have to go by bus. That costs 50 pesos. Half your daily wage. It's not worth working for that. But then you would starve."

"There is no work to be had anywhere. The foreman only has to put a rumour around that there is a vacancy and the next day there would be a line of men queueing up outside."

"They fool the workers, too, offering them a steady job if they sign a contract. So they work like dogs all through the summer. Then winter comes. The harvest is over. 'Contract cancelled.' It's too bad, deceiving people like that."

There is a pause in the conversation, and a pained look comes over the man's careworn face.

"I had to pull my eldest boy out of school. He's fourteen. He's working

now and gets the same wage as me (about £1.50 a day). I didn't want to do it, you understand, but I had no choice.

"I have five little ones and they do not have enough to eat. So I explained this to my son.

"He understands the reason why. He understands everything, my son. He is a man now. He knows that it is the society we live under. But he goes to night school. I put aside money so he can get some more education.

"That's one thing I'm really afraid of. That we'll go back to the old ignorant ways. Ignorance...

"Yes, I left school when I was twelve. My father couldn't afford to keep me. And the old folks would say: What are you keeping that lad at school for? What sense is there in all that book learning?"

"I used to go to work with shoes with uppers, but no soles. My father used to wear bits of cowhide sewn together instead of shoes."

"Yes. Things were bad because people were ignorant. Then things got better under comrade Allende. The farm labourers got a decent wage. 300 escudos a day."

"You could go to the shop and buy a bundle of food. Everyone had enough to eat. And still have some money left over. But now..."

"Now we live on potatoes and rice. And what rice! Third class rice. And now they're selling us cheap sugar that is a mixture with god knows what in it. And it appears in the shops and people just snap it up."

And that is how things stand today with the workers and peasants of Chile, who only seven or eight years ago stood on the very brink of the socialist transformation of society.

Why did they fail? What sort of policies were they that were capable of causing such a terrible disaster? This is the inescapable question which every thinking Chilean socialist, communist and worker has been asking himself daily for the last seven years.

And they, unlike the exiled leaders of yesterday, have had the courage to answer the question. Such as the unemployed metalworker from Valparaiso: "Do you know what it is to see all the conquests of 50 years wiped out overnight like that?"

"It's too bad. And the leaders must take their share of the blame for what happened. Some day they will be called to account."

murdered his own nephew. Do you think that the parents of that boy will ever forgive and forget? That is something which the old leaders in exile have not understood.

"They do not understand that the old times are gone. Finished for good. And when the time of reckoning comes here, it will come with a vengeance.

"The gulf between the classes, between rich and poor, is enormous. Everything on the surface seems peaceful and orderly. But that is not so. There is poverty and hunger here, as never before.

"In the villages there are people who are starving. They seem peaceful enough at the moment. But let the slightest chink appear at the top, the slightest opportunity, and those dispossessed peasants will move to take over the land again. Yes, and many workers will take over the factories, too."

But didn't the leaders in exile still enjoy a lot of support among the masses?

"Look. The trouble with the old leaders of the Popular Unity is that they are living in the past. In another time. In another world. In another Chile.

"It is almost as if the eleventh of September had never existed. You



AMERICA BRAZIL

# U.S RECESSION GROWS

## BANKS AND INDUSTRY HIT

By Jim  
Chrystie

**As recession bites in the United States, it's not just small firms that are feeling the pinch. Last week Fords [USA] announced a £438m loss on domestic operations since last June.**

Another car giant, Chrysler, is currently seeking £1,535m in loans as part of a rescue operation. Even the giant General Motors found its profits decline by 87% in the first quarter of this year and has been toppled from its perch as the world's top company by Exxon.

In the present quarter the three main US car makers are planning to cut back production by 21%. In an ironic comment on the sick aiding the ill, Fords (USA) was helped out of its position by Fords (UK) giving it £135m of its post-tax profits and a £229m loan.

In New Jersey, Fords have announced the closure of three plants which the local government official described as "the most devastating economic news to hit us since the depression."

Whilst the car industry has been hit especially hard, tough times face other American workers. The recession is mounting as industrial production fell by 0.8% in March, compared to 0.2% in February and a rise of 0.3% in January. The government (optimistically) predicts only a drop of 0.4% in gross national product this year.

Recession is hitting the steel industry as Republic Steel, the fifth largest steel firm in the USA, found its earnings decline by 52% in the first quarter of this year.

But economic crisis is not just affecting the industrial sector. The financial institutions have suffered, which has major consequences for so-called 'Third World' countries who have relied on loans to bail out their ailing economies.

Last week 1st Pennsylvania Bank (23rd largest in the country) had to be saved by the biggest-ever rescue mounted by the government and commercial banks. The pinch was also being felt at the rival 1st Chicago Bank, who sacked their top two officials because of low profits.

It is the danger of financial bankruptcy has resulted in a

toughening of attitudes towards 'Third World' countries desperate for loans. Excluding loans to the oil-exporting nations, American banks are already owed £26,027m by 'third world' countries. That equals 130% of the banks' own funds.

The situation is far more critical for the underdeveloped countries than at the beginning of the last recession in 1974. Then the non-oil producing countries had external debts of £64,840m. By 1978, according to the World Bank, they totalled £145,835 million. It can only have got worse in the last sixteen months.

American bankers have cracked down on future loans, although they worry that this may mean that some countries will renege on existing loans. In the last month Brazil, Phillipines and Jamaica have felt this new financial squeeze. Brazil's foreign minister returned empty-handed from a loan mission to New York.

Others will make similar fruitless journeys in the months to come. It will open up enormous explosions throughout the 'Third World' as working people fight back for their rights. One has already seen the first signs of this in Jamaica, and Brazil.

They will be joined in this fight by American workers as well. Carter's new budget, which cut £11 billion (mostly from welfare) was described by Lane Kirkland head of the American TUC as "sheer madness" and risky "economic disaster." Kirkland, a Kennedy supporter, was partly playing Presidential politics in his remarks that such a budget threatened the Democratic labour alliance.

But the anger of workers against the cut-backs, the closures and the consequences of capitalist recession will grow. Carter's chief economic adviser has stated that fiscal and monetary restraint will continue until the monetary restraint will continue until the mid-1980s. It means a stormy future for American capitalism.

## DIS-UNITED COMMUNIST CONFERENCE

Such is the disarray within the international 'Communist' parties that no world conference was held in the 1970s. And as the new decade begins the disintegration continues.

Last week's European Communist Party summit was boycotted by nine parties, including the mass Italian and Spanish parties and the ruling parties of Romania and Yugoslavia. Each party follows its own national road to socialism and although unable to dismantle its Stalinist structure and reformist outlook, is wary of being seen as just the mouthpiece for the Russian Stalinists.

It was the Russian bureaucracy who had pushed for last week's conference.

They wanted the Conference to limit its discussion on peace to denouncing cruise missiles and increased NATO armaments. But other parties also wanted to discuss Afghanistan.

The hurriedly arranged Conference did not allow this, as the Russian bureaucracy would not allow criticism of its action. So nine parties [including the British] boycotted and two sent observers. Before deciding to boycott the British, Spanish and Italian parties held a private meeting.

The dilemma facing these 'Euro-Communist' parties is clear. Their national reformist programme is no different from that found in the left and right wing of the social-democratic parties of Europe.

Their claim to be 'Communist' rests on the link with the Russian revolution.

Yet rather than adopt the approach of the Bolsheviks, of Lenin and Trotsky, they prefer to identify with the parasites who have betrayed that revolution. Rather than make a clear Marxist analysis of what has occurred in the USSR since 1917, they describe the USSR as a 'socialist society', whilst disagreeing with certain aspects of the bureaucracy's rule.

This empirical approach cannot understand the reality of Stalinism. And it cannot build a workers' International based on clear socialist analysis and policies. It is limited to a nationalist vision. Last week's fiasco will not be the last.



Demonstration against Carter's budget

# Brazil-Arrest of leaders fails to end strike

**Over 100,000 Brazilian metalworkers have now been on strike for five weeks.**

**Their magnificent struggle for decent wages and democratic Trade Union rights has for the second year running shaken the Brazilian military and international capitalist class.**

The end of the economic miracle has led to mounting labour disputes (Militant 25/1/80). The organised metalworkers have been to the forefront of these disputes. In Sao Paulo Brazil's main industrial area there is the

By Dave Cotterill

largest concentration of workers in South America.

In such a situation you find the conditions of a hothouse for the breeding of the basic ideas of trade unionism and socialism. The conditions of dictatorship mean that the struggle cannot be contained at a simple level of wages and conditions.

In this strike, as in last year's the demands of recognition of shop stewards and

free access of union officials have ranked equally with demands for a 15% productivity allowance plus the usual 6 monthly inflation adjustment. Inevitably in this manner a conflict with the state is posed and the strike has become a political struggle.

Recognition of this has come in the formation of a new workers' party—which uniquely initially arose from a conference of metalworkers from 37 unions in Sao Paulo, representing 1 million workers. This new organisation which is headed by Luis Inacio da Silva—'Lula', who is also the leader of the metalworkers, is a new force which worries the ruling class.

They have reasons enough to be worried. The ending of

the miracle has resulted in growing problems within Brazilian society—ten years ago there were virtually no slums in Sao Paulo. Now there are half a million slum dwellers. In Rio, two million.

Two thirds of the population are under 18 years old. Every year 1½ million new jobs have to be found. The military think that they can force the metalworkers back by the threat of unemployment but they are mistaken.

The organised metalworkers are not just fighting for themselves but for all the oppressed sections of Brazilian society—fellow workers who earn the minimum wage now have to work double the hours they worked in 1959 just to get basic food.

In their struggles against

the military they can draw behind them the poorest sections of society—people in the North East who on average live twenty years less than people elsewhere in Brazil.

The strike has been declared illegal, 'Lula' and sixteen other leaders have been arrested and the offices of the union have been occupied. Even under these circumstances the workers have continued with their strike, throwing up new rank and file leaders.

The determination of the metalworkers has had its results. The splits in the ruling class show clearly that they fear the growing movement and power of the working class. But also the middle class are being drawn

into supporting the workers.

A labour tribunal which initially had to decide on the status of the strike declared that it was legal. Only under pressure from the government did they decide it was illegal.

The arrests of the trade union leaders have led to leading elements of the Church coming out in support of the strike. According to the Generals it is not only the "communists" but also now the church which is responsible for inciting strikes.

The dictatorial monolith is breaking. The soothing advice of the 'Financial Times' (22/4/80) that they 'must not become too alarmed at the increase in work stoppages' will turn sour in the mouths of the Brazilian and international capitalist class.

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

## School dinners—15p to 70p in a year

Dear Comrades

While the Duke of Norfolk complained about the Tory cuts in school transport, cuts were hitting our school in the form of rising school dinner prices.

When the Tories came to power a year ago dinners were 15p each—bit stodgy but two courses and relatively hot. From 15p they rose to 25p.

In September they were 30p, then 35p. By the new year they had introduced a canteen system that enabled them to put up the prices to about 45p on average. But when we returned after the Easter break they were 70p.

Free dinners are still provided for the kids those parents could not afford to pay a year ago, but the cuts are beginning to hit others too. I can only afford to have a hot dinner three times a

week. And that's when I walk the two miles to and two miles home from school.

This measure will hit hardest the kids whose parents rely on the school to give their children a hot meal once a day.

The cuts must be reversed and school children must not pay for the failures of British capitalism.

Yours fraternally  
Ian Wright  
Chairman SE Essex LPYS

## Fly in the Ointment

Dear Comrades

The safety of children in Somerset has become the subject of an advertising stunt.

Recent Tory education cuts abandoned school crossing patrols to the whims of private enterprise. Now a lollipop man in Taunton wears a fluorescent jacket with the slogan "A safe move—courtesy of M A Bale—Removers."

Yours sincerely  
Jon Gray  
Chairman, Taunton  
Constituency Labour Party

## Very enterprising

Dear Comrades

If reading Andrew Glyn's article in 'Militant' [issue 499] explains to me why the Tories have adopted monetarist policies for British industry, then a glance through the pages of the 'Times Business News' will show you how it's done in practice.

For a recent success story take Hoover UK, where 'drastic rationalisation' last year turned a previous deficit into profit in the first three months of this year.

How was it done? Easy—take 11,000 workers, sack 2,000 of them [but don't call it that, call it 'efficiency moves'] and sit tight while the profits roll in and 'industrial relations' get back to normal.

The only fly in the ointment they envisage is later in the year, when 'consumer spending' begins to come under 'pressure'. In plain English, workers, especially those who have been affected by 'efficiency moves' will be too poor to buy Hoover's washing machines and vacuum cleaners, even if they'd like to, because of the disastrous effects of Tory monetarist policies on the pound in their pocket.

Soon I expect they will be talking about 'overproduction' in the washing machine industry...

The bosses often lecture us about greed, but, as always, they want to have their cake and eat it. Our message to them is that we want our own cakes and for that we'll need the bakery.

Forward to genuine nationalisation of British industry under democratic workers' control.

Yours fraternally  
Harriet Stevens  
Bristol SE LPYS

## Right wing veto recruitment drive

Dear Comrades

I always find it interesting to note how the people who shout the loudest against the ideas of Marxism in the Labour Party are always the least interested in the welfare and growth of our party.

The white collar union APEX recently held its conference in Scarborough. (The battle for unionisation in the town's hotel trade has led to it being boycotted by every labour movement conference except APEX and the Police Federation, if the Police Federation can be counted as part of the labour movement.)

During the conference Barry Clarke, the ex-Labour Party National Youth Officer, was asked if the LPYS would be allowed to circulate a recruitment sheet around the delegates. After short deliberation, the APEX leaders informed us that we would not be allowed to approach delegates because, "if the LPYS was allowed to do this" they "would have to do the same for every organisation."

What stupidity, when an affiliated trades union is unwilling to support a recruitment campaign by the official

youth section of the Labour Party.

PS: Over 140 delegates bought a copy of 'Militant'.

Yours fraternally  
Dave Whiteley  
Scarborough LPYS

## School students will fight back

Dear Comrades

All over the country working class school students are seeing what the Tories really stand for. Sports equipment, teachers, textbooks, paper, heating and school dinners are being savagely cut.

Textbooks are often shared and are well overdue for replacement. Teaching and ancillary staff are being savagely cut, leaving some classes either unattended or doing set work.

Recreational facilities are few and where they exist, teachers have to run them in

their own time.

Working-class school children face more and more cuts in their education. But it's a different story in private schools—the traditional breeding ground for the privileged and the next generation of the ruling class.

Parents can rest assured that under Tory rule they will always have a wide choice of schools—as long as they have the money.

It's typical of the Tories to attack the weakest sections of society; the unemployed, blacks, the elderly, the crippled and children. Yet it is often the case that these sections become the front runners in revolutionary activity.

Students will fight back but it must be organised behind the banner of socialism. They must join the National Union of School Students and change it into a fighting union linked to the labour and trade union movement.

Students must also become politically active in the Labour Party Young Socialists, because it is only through socialism and the destruction of capitalism that they can reach their goal.

Yours fraternally  
Tony Marks  
Chairman, Southend LPYS  
and Westcliff NUSS

## Tory hands on Tory throats

Dear Comrade

The Tory Party claims to be the national party of Britain, forging unity among the classes.

Not only have recent events shown how impossible it is to unite workers and bosses but the Tories are finding it increasingly difficult to maintain any unity amid their own ranks. In parliament we have on the one hand the frantic backbench reactionaries, and on the other, the more sober strategists of capitalism known as "the wets".

Dunfermline Constituency Conservative Association has completely split up. Physical battles have broken out amongst these Tories and the two rival camps are standing against each other in the district elections.

One camp goes by the name of "Conservatives" while the other is determined that they are the "Official Dunfermline Conservatives."

We have two groups of out-and-out reactionaries at each others' throats.

On Friday (25 April) the Tory Club at Stirling University held a public meeting with an executive member of the Federation of Conservative Students speaking. The whole of his speech was concerned with why the Tory government shouldn't have cut education spending and how irresponsible it was. He claimed that students should try to convince it to change course.

He also had to admit that Tory councils were vigorously cutting services. This, he thought, was wrong and argued that they should also be convinced to change course and cut bureaucracy only! However, apart from these points he thought that the Tories were doing a good job!

The speech ended with a flourish; "most of you probably disagree with what I have been saying, but at least you've heard what the Federation of Conservative Students stands for."

Yours fraternally  
Paul Cunningham  
Dunfermline LPYS

## A strong LPYS—vital for a mass socialist Labour Party

Dear Comrades

At its AGM on 26 April, Durham CLP threw out a resolution calling for an enquiry into the activities of 'Militant' supporters in the Labour Party.

In the discussion it was pointed out that the lies and distortions of the capitalist press were entirely without substance—the 'secret' £140,000 income of the paper was shown to comprise of donations from the pockets of members of the labour movement.

Just six votes were recorded in support of the resolution—a great vindication of the strength and ideas of the 'Militant' and our patient explanation of the ideas of Marx.

As recently as 1979 the CLP rescinded an earlier ban on the sale of 'Militant' at GMCs, a ban brought in during the period when there

were no 'Militant' supporters on the GMC. When Party members encountered our ideas they were not slow to realise the dangers of bans and proscriptions.

At the same AGM, a resolution requesting the CLP to provide a £50 annual budget to the LPYS was defeated (25 votes to 24, with the chairman's casting vote!) Undeterred, we plan to bring the resolution up at a future GMC, and we already have the support of a large number of trade union and Labour Party branches on this matter.

It is essential for the viability of YS branches that they be allowed to carry out extensive leafletting campaigns and hold regular public meetings and social events.

Our branch is mainly comprised of unemployed youth, school students (who do not receive a grant of any

description) and low-paid workers. While we do not feel the branch should be absolved from the responsibility of fund-raising, financial help from the constituency Party would help tremendously in the task of building a mass base amongst the youth.

LPYS branches throughout the country should press for an annual budget from their CLPs, pointing out that we receive no membership subscriptions, but often bear the brunt of political organisation, which is necessarily costly.

In this way we might see the Labour Party itself realising its responsibilities towards recruitment, laying the basis for a mass membership fit to transform society on a socialist programme.

Fraternally  
Paul Etherington  
Secretary Sedgefield & District LPYS

## Smash the Employment Bill

Dear Comrades

In recent months we have seen this vicious, anti-working class Tory government make attacks on our unions, in the form of the Employment Bill, which will bring all closed shop agreements into jeopardy, union rights interfered with etc. etc.

That well-known Tory puppet, 'Pinnocchio' Edwards, with his pay and package deal, will bring a 15% cut in wages, redundancies and hardship to all at BL. These are all plans to demoralise the working class—they must not succeed!

At a local pie factory there is a union, but with a very limited amount of power.

A driver's mate who loads and unloads the lorries works forty-three hours for a net pay of £45. After working a five-day week he is then told that he has to go on a night run to Bournemouth, Manchester, Liverpool or wherever.

Arriving back on Saturday at 4 or 5 am, he is then told to work a Saturday morning, after only four hours' sleep! Union meetings are rare, and held ten to fifteen miles away from the factory, on a Sunday morning!

At this moment despair should end and tactics begin. We must as a class organise, participate and demonstrate against the most barbaric of all religions—capitalism!

We must smash the Employment Bill, kick out the Tories, implement a 35-hour week in all places of employment, an £80 minimum wage to benefit Britain and be the first knife in the heart of world capitalism.

Yours fraternally  
Mark Edmunds  
IRSF, Caerphilly LPYS

## THE REAL INFILTRATORS

Dear Comrade

As a regular reader of 'Militant' I feel compelled to put my feelings on paper about the recent accusations and innuendoes of entryism and infiltration by the 'Militant' tendency in the Labour Party.

In the immediate post-war period, after the horrors of the second world war the working people of this country saw very clearly the need to create a new society of equal opportunities, a society where no one would go hungry or be out of work or without a roof over their heads.

The time was right for the creation of a socialist Britain.

In consequence a Labour government, in very close harmony with the trade union movement, was overwhelmingly elected.

Because of the severe strain placed on this country's resources during the war, aid was needed to rebuild Britain and her industries. This aid came from several capitalist sources, the main one being America with her Marshall Aid Plan. However, there were very big strings attached to this aid and that is when the real infiltration of the Labour Party began.

Over the years we have seen the party grow further and further away from its working

class roots and we have seen the systematic destruction of the ideal of the welfare state. The party when in power has become nothing more than a prop for big business and capital.

That is why I find it farcical when a peer of the realm (a pseudo-socialist) accuses party members with Marxist ideals of 'entryism' and 'infiltration'. Long may the 'Militant' keep the red flag flying.

Yours fraternally  
Eddie Pynn  
UCATT shop steward  
Gillingham, Kent

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# MAKE A REGULAR DONATION

## Build **Militant**

Area	Received	Percentage of half-year's target achieved	Target half-year	Target for year
Eastern	1,311		2,250	5,000
East Midlands	1,025		1,710	3,800
Hants & IOW	876		1,755	3,900
Humberside	388		1,125	2,500
London East	1,849		2,790	6,200
London West	1,442		2,115	4,700
London South	967		1,800	4,000
Manchester & Lancs	843		2,295	5,100
Merseyside	1,663		2,700	6,000
Northern	1,665		2,700	6,000
Scotland East	730		3,285	7,300
Scotland West	1,271		1,440	3,200
Southern	1,567		2,250	5,000
South West	626		2,655	5,900
Wales East	394		1,440	3,200
Wales West	390		1,260	2,800
West Midlands	2,176		1,395	3,100
Yorkshire	1,310		4,050	9,000
Others	4,097		3,285	7,300
<b>Total received</b>	<b>24,590</b>		<b>45,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>

**TARGET FOR JULY 12th £45,000 TARGET FOR YEAR-£100,000**

### ACTION ON MAY 14th NATIONWIDE

**BRIDPORT, Dorset** assemble Sealink Road, 10.00 am. March to St Johns Ambulance Hall.

**South Ribble Trades Council** public meeting, Leyland Labour Club, 7.30 pm.

**PRESTON:** Assemble 11.00 am, Preston Polytechnic car park, Corporation Street, to Market Square.

**STOKE** North Staffs Trades Council. Assemble Hanley Park, 10.30 am, to leave 11.00

**LIVERPOOL** Tuesday May 13—mass rally. Forward to the '80s, not back to the '30s. St Georges Hall, Lime Street, Liverpool, 7.30 pm. Wednesday May 14 demo. Meet at Shaw Street, 11.00 am. Rally at Pier Head.

**ISLE OF WIGHT** assemble: 9.00 am, Coppins Bridge car park, Newport, for transport to various factory gate meetings in Cowes, Newport, Ryde etc. Rally and demonstration at 3.00 pm at Churchlitten Park.

**SALFORD:** assemble at 10.00 am at the corner of Liverpool Street and Albion Street, near the gas works.

**BRIGHTON, Hove and District** TUC rally and demonstration, 11.00 am, The Level, Lewes Road, Brighton

**BRISTOL** march and rally assembles 11.00 am, Anchor Road, Cannons Marsh.

**COVENTRY:** Spencer Park, 11.45 am. Rally precinct 1 pm

**PLYMOUTH:** assemble: 1.00 pm, Junction of the Barbican and Madeira Road. Rally on Plymouth Hoe. Speakers: Tony Benn and TUC speaker.

**EAST KILBRIDE** Town Centre, 11.00 am, Hear Ken McMillan (East Kilbride TC Secretary) and STUC speakers.

**Fire Brigades' Union Conference, Bridlington** assemble 9.15 am, Sation Coach Park, march to Spa Slipway, Spa Royal Hall.

**MANCHESTER:** 10.30, All Saints.

**GLASGOW** March and demo from Blythswood Square, leaving at 2.00 pm, to march to Customs Quay

**Print workers** assemble: Clerkenwell Green, 12 midday. March to Central Hall 2.30 pm.

Coventry SE/SW Labour parties call on all members to organise maximum support for a public meeting—'Labour's Socialist Alternative.' Speakers Bob Wright [Assistant General Secretary AUEW], Cllr Dave Edwards [Talbot T&GWU convenor], Bill Mullins [Senior shop steward, Rover Solihull]; at Methodist Central Hall, Monday May 19, 7.15pm. All Welcome.

**LONDON TRADE UNIONISTS' DAY SCHOOL**  
Saturday 7 June 10.00am—6.00pm.  
John Cass School, Stepney Way E1 [Aldgate tubes]  
The Tory 'Employment' Bill and the Tory attack on trade union rights'

Main sessions on 'The Employment Bill and Tory Economic Strategy' and 'Militant trade unionism and Marxism.' Seminars on 'Workers' Control', 'Democratising the Labour Party and the Trade Unions', 'What Kind of Nationalisation?', 'Effective Picketing', 'The History of Trade Union Legislation', 'The Tory Attack on Working Women's Rights', 'The Fight Against Redundancies', 'The Role of the Police in Industry', 'The Fight Against the IR Act 1970-74', 'Lessons of May 14', 'The General Strike of 1926.'

If you are interested in the MILITANT London Trade Unionists' Day-School and wish to receive further information and leaflets for distribution to fellow stewards, members etc, please contact: Peter Jarvis, June 7 Day-School, Militant, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

# THIS WEEK

## £1,621

#### 'What Way Forward After May 14th' MEETINGS

**GOSPORT** Thursday 15 May. Gosport Labour Club, 145 Brockhurst Rd. Gosport, 8.00 pm. Speaker: Derek Blunn (Southampton LP and ex BL shop steward).

**SOUTHAMPTON** Thursday 15 May. St Matthews Church Hall, St Marys Rd, Southampton (just off Six Dials). 7.30 pm. Speaker: John Kelly (President of Southampton Trades Council in personal capacity).

**BASINGSTOKE** Thursday 15 May. The Jackson Room, Chute House, Church Street, Basingstoke. 7.45 pm. Speaker: John Cantwell (LPYS National Committee).

**EASTLEIGH** Thursday 15 May. Labour Party rooms, 69 Leigh Road, Eastleigh. 7.30pm. Speakers: Steve Hatherley (Sheetmetalworkers' union shop steward), John Brierley (NUT and Havant Trades Council).

**PORTSMOUTH** Wednesday 14 May. Labour Party rooms, 84 Kingston Crescent, North End, Portsmouth. 8.00 pm. Speaker: Nick Brooks (Southampton Labour Party).

**DUNDEE** Thursday 15 May. Ancient Shepherds Hall, Seagate Dundee. 7.30 pm. Speakers: Jim Greer (Secretary Edinburgh Plumbers Lodge EETPU, personal capacity), Pat Craven (Dundee LP).

Most newspapers are run to make a profit, and the 8p or 15p you pay at the newsagent isn't enough for the press tycoons. Whole pages of their papers are paid for in advance by advertisers at a rate which depends on the circulation figures, but will usually run into many £'000s for a page in a national daily. This massive subsidy paid by manufacturers or retailers ensures that they get their 'leaflets' into millions of homes.

Papers of the labour movement have traditionally balanced their books a different way. In order to establish funds for the first daily 'Pravda', hundreds of workers contributed the necessary funds for nearly four months in 1912 before they could see the first issue!

We're not at this stage asking for donations for a 'Daily Militant' fund, but we do ask all readers, especially those reading this column for the first time, to consider making a regular donation to the 'Militant' Fighting Fund. Contribute either via the 'Collectors' Card' of your local seller, or by taking out a subscription by post (see back page) and rounding your cheque or postal order up.

To quote Lenin on the 1912 experience: "From the point of view of the initiative and energy of the workers themselves, it is much more important to have 100 roubles collected by, say, 30 groups of workers than 1,000 roubles collected by some dozens of sympathisers." Thus the 50p sent in this week by four Hull school students is just as valuable as the £15 'Scottish TUC expenses' received from a Glasgow reader.

The main way thousands of supporters have assisted us this week has been through small sums mounting up at '500 Edition' meetings held from Perth to Southampton. From the top, we've had money from Stirling, Dalkeith, Tyneside, Chester-le-Street, Middlesborough, Fleetwood, Merseyside, Manchester, East and West London, and Reading, giving us a total of just over £600. And

can we have IOUs redeemed pronto, please. Added to this delegates and visitors to the USDAW and APEX conferences contributed £58 and £30 respectively after expenses. As well as this, individual supporters have sent us presents: C Knight from Tunbridge Wells enclosed a May Day fiver with his letter explaining the disastrous effects the Tories' policies were having on all working people locally, and K Smith from Tyneside put £10 with a note saying 'Forward to the next 500 issues!'

By **Steve Cawley**

Other tenners were from NUPE member C Burford (London) and students J Hawley (Leeds) and A Spurge (Leicester). Any more grant cheques bulging in comrades' wallets?

Thanks also this week to P Clapham (NUR Sheffield), P O'Kane (AUEW District Committee, Nottingham), J Cousins (Kingston), K Brewer (T&GWU steward, Dorset), D Lawton (COHSE) and G Smith (NUR), both of York, and C Hinton, (Campsie LPYS, Glasgow).

Thanks as well to those who organised fund-raising at the Week-end School (East Anglia), Folk Night (Basildon), USDAW Conference Disco (courtesy Poole LPYS), Kingston Poly Labour Club, and by feeding the Birmingham Militant Rally.

If you really want us to go 'Forward to the next 500 issues' help us in a material way—and send us the necessary: support the paper that supports you!

**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**

**PETERBOROUGH** Militant public meeting 'What Militant stands for'. Speaker: Bob Edwards (Harlow Labour Party) 7.30 pm, Monday 19 May, at the Swimming Pool, Bishops Road

**BLYTH** Marxist Discussion Group. Every Wednesday, 7.30 pm, at Blyth YMCA.

**NEW KISMET TANDOORI RESTAURANT**  
206 Brick Lane E1 [Bethnal Green Rd Road end]  
Come and try our special tandoori and curry dishes  
English dishes also available. Tel. [01] 739 9085

**ST HELEN'S** Militant discussion group. 'How long will Thatcher last?' Speakers: Alan Jackson (G&MWU convenor, United Glass), Lesley Holt (Liverpool NUT). 7.30 pm, 15 May, St Helens Town Hall.

**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.

**Classified**

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

**WORLD BOOKS OUT NOW!**  
South Africa: the workers' movement—SACTU and the ANC—a struggle for Marxist policies.

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

**OLDHAM** Discussion Group 'The general strike', Tuesday May 20th. For details, ring (061) 681-4858

**BRISTOL LPYS** Public Meeting. Thursday May 15th, 7.30 pm, Central Hall, Old Market Street. Local trade union speaker, and Kevin Ramage (National Chairman LPYS).

## CPSA CONFERENCE 1980



# STOP THE TORIES AND THEIR ALLIES

The 1980 annual conference of the Civil and Public Services Association convenes in Southport on 12 May after a year of Tory attacks on civil servants and public service workers.

Every section of the CPSA has felt the effect of the politics of the Thatcher government. Thousands of civil service jobs have been axed and more are threatened.

The Tories have—once again—broken the civil service national pay agreement. The Post Office is to be split, and its monopoly axed in preparation for partial denationalisation.

The motions submitted to the union's individual section conferences and the national conference itself indicate the anger of the membership and provide the basis of a programme for the fight back against the Tories and their allies in the CPSA.

The major issue of the civil service conference is undoubtedly the pay policy of the union. Civil servants' pay is at present fixed by a system of pay research using 'fair comparisons' between civil servants and like grades in private industry.

Under the pay agreement, civil servants were due for pay increases on the 1 April. However the Tories imposed a cash limit on the negotiations and as a result, the pay increases are to be paid out from the 7 May—over £100 stolen from the pocket of every civil servant.

The interference of the government has once again exposed and negated the two basic objectives supposedly underlying the pay research system: "remuneration and conditions of service to be thought fair by civil servants, and a guarantee that civil servants' just desserts will not be sacrificed to political expediency."

Since the introduction of pay research, there have been few years without political interference. Under pay research, the great majority of civil servants (particularly CPSA grades) have lagged

By  
**Kevin Roddy**  
**Jim Bough,**  
**Pat Byrne,**  
**Frank Bonner**  
**and**  
**Steve**  
**Appleton**  
[current NEC members]

well behind the general movement of wage rates.

Pay research cannot adequately deal with the continually widening gap between our pay and rates in outside industry; resolve internal pay relativities or the abolition of incremental scales.

The conference motion from Land Registry, Lytham, provides the union with an opportunity to rethink its pay policy. The motion "notes with alarm the persistent interference and calls for a one-day special conference to discuss future pay policy."

A full analysis of the present system and the alternatives, clearly explained and presented to the membership in a document for widespread discussion leading up to a special conference, is the correct way to deal with this major issue.

'Militant' supporters are opposed to pay research. We feel it would be dangerous, however, to break with pay research (motion 16) without a major review involving all the membership, given the likely background of an

overwhelming vote in favour of the proposed pay settlement in the present ballot.

That is why we believe the left should support motion 1 and begin a campaign geared to the special conference around the demand for pay claims determined by the membership through the delegate conferences, based on data prepared by the union's research department.

The other major (and related) issue revolves around the present national civil service grading and pay system.

Pressure has been building up in some areas for a move away from a national rate of pay and common grades in all government departments. Such a move would be disastrous.

The answer to low pay is not to reduce our effectiveness but step us effective united action, for pay claims determined by the membership. Motion 157 from DHSS Glasgow North correctly points the way forward.

The most important issue of the national conference will be the demand for the election of full-time officials.

Thirty-one branches have tabled motions "agreeing that the regular election of full-time officials would be a step towards furthering democracy within CPSA" and calling for "the NEC to examine the issues involved and report back to the membership before annual conference 1981."

This has provoked a concerted campaign of opposition by the majority of full-time officials (organised in a CPSA HQ branch of APEX. Before the CPSA membership had even received their book of motions, APEX were planning their campaign.

Every CPSA branch has received literature from APEX (without the authority of the NEC) opposing the conference resolutions. Selected delegates are being specially briefed.

The Tory press has been used by the officials to attack the union's national committee. Further stunts are likely at the conference.

This campaign clearly demonstrates the need for more accountability. The spokesmen and representatives of

workers must be subject to the control of the workers and election is the best means of accountability.

Election holds no fears for full-time officials who carry out the wishes of the membership.

The need for a fighting programme to protect members' interests against the Tories' attacks sharply raises the importance of clear leadership.

As we pointed out in 'Militant' (issue 500), the election procedures for positions of President and national executive committee places have been changed this year. The right wing, aided and abetted by every left group, with the sole exception of 'Militant' supporters, abandoned the system whereby the union branch membership came together, discussed candidates for election and voted in their branch meetings, with the branch delegate to conference casting their vote for the candidates who received the majority support at membership meetings.

In its place, they introduced a system of members voting for individuals they preferred, with individual votes being tallied up and counted nationally.

'Militant' argued then that this system broke the collective influence of the union branch, leaving even more scope for Tory media interference. We warned that it would result in the left losing control of the national executive.

Regrettably our analysis and predictions seem correct. There is every probability that a savage right-wing executive will come to power, with the help of reactionary journalists such as Bernard Levin of 'The Times' and the rest of the Tory press.

Not satisfied with their adventure, however, the same motley crew within the Broad Left now want to apply this voting system to all elections in the industry sections of the union!

A combination of a Thatcherite government on the one hand and a right wing national committee on the other, would be a severe set-back for the CPSA. The door has been opened for a

vicious attack on the gains made over the past few years.

It is likely that the right wing will ape the antics of their gurus, union leaders such as Frank Chapple of the EPTU and Terry Duffy (AUEW), by trying to expel members and perhaps even whole union branches; accepting the 'judas money' provided by the Tories for union ballots; launching an attack on left wing officials, extending political proscriptions and using referendums to by-pass the thousands of elected branch officials.

We shall see a further polarisation within the CPSA, as the right-wing reveal their true anti-democratic colours. In the period ahead, the left will need to improve its organisation and widen its base of support.

The Broad Left must be transformed into a mass organisation and demonstrate its capacity to fight on the 'bread and butter' issues, as part of a wider programme to defend union rights and advance socialist ideas. 'Militant' supporters must assert their undoubted influence in these developments.

The left will need to respond quickly and positively to the lies and attacks by the right and begin the fight-back within the union.

A fighting programme to defeat the right wing must go hand in hand with the fight against the Tories. Affiliation to the Labour Party [motions 121-132] would be an immense step. The CPSA would then be able to join and influence the struggle side by side with other TUC unions, against the Tories and for the election of a Labour government pledged to carry out socialist policies.

A lasting solution to the problems of CPSA members and the working class in general can only be found under socialism. Those who argue that we should keep politics out of the CPSA effectively mean that we should keep socialist policies out of the union.

If we flinch from the fight against Toryism and its allies in the trade union movement, it is our members who will have to bear the consequences.

## NO SPLITS IN THE POST OFFICE

For many CPSA Post and Telecommunications [P&T] group activists the 1980 annual conference will be one of the most important in CPSA history.

At the outset of negotiations on the all-important issues of pay and grade restructuring, management were clearly out to cause a rift between Post Office CPSA and POEU members, amongst others, as a means of implementing some of the worst features of their proposals.

CPSA members must stress the need for maximum trade union unity and comparable increases in pay. It is vital, however, "that before any firm decisions are made on regrading," (composite motion 44, Edinburgh GMO), a special delegate conference is held, with full voting rights and the opportunity to submit motions. This will allow members to democratically check, and if necessary, reverse proposals made by the Group Executive Committee (GEC).

The other most fundamental issues facing the group involve a campaign of industrial action by the end of October 1980 if the 35-hour week is not achieved (motion 23, Liverpool GMO); "a minimum entitlement of six weeks' annual leave for all CPSA grades" (composite 33, Liverpool GMO) and the abolition of the discriminatory age scale as proposed in composite 7 (London City GMO).

Composite 71 (Liverpool GMO), opposing any Tory attempts to hive off the Post Office and instructing "the GEC to launch a campaign around the membership, linking up to other trade unions, to explain the issues involved and mount opposition to such measures," is in many ways the most important motion on the agenda.

The need for one common trade union, based primarily on lower-grade workers, is becoming more and more urgent. By strengthening all the unions involved in the face of attacks by the common employer, all post office trade unionists could benefit. Delegates are urged to support motion 59 (Liverpool GMO).

The immediate withdrawal from participation in the fiasco of the so-called industrial democracy experiment, as advanced in composite 64 (Liverpool GMO, a branch previously in the forefront of attempts to make the experiment work) is a priority. These schemes have proved useless to the membership from every angle.

Only democratic workers' control and management of the Corporation can guarantee the interests of Post Office trade unionists and their families are met.

'Militant' supporter Dave Bell, Belfast GMO, is standing for re-election to the Group Executive Committee.

By Steve Higham  
(CPSA P&T Group,  
Liverpool GMO)

**UNIONS IN CONFERENCE - FBU TWU IRSF NUM**



# FIREMEN MUST CHALLENGE TORIES

**FBU CONFERENCE Militant Meeting**  
 'A socialist Programme for the Labour Movement'  
 Hear Terry Fields [FBU NEC, personal capacity]; Wayne Jones [Militant industrial correspondent] 7pm, Wednesday 14th May, Landborough Hotel, West Street, Bridlington [a few minutes walk from conference].



## The main debates, as I see them, will focus on four key issues facing members as firemen and trade unionists.

After our historic strike, we won a pay agreement that was to bring us in line with the 'upper quartile' [the highest paid quarter] of manual workers, in two stages. Last year we received the first instalment. But will we get the rest, or will the Tory government try to interfere? How much will we be paid? The biggest question is what the 'upper quartile' really represents and how the government statistics are arrived at. Our settlement is based on what amounts to a comparability exercise, but

### By Terry Fields

(Fire Brigades Union executive member, personal capacity)

the survey of firemen's pay is worked out on a sample of 240 firemen. Who and where they are and how representative their pay rates are, we have no way of knowing. We must call for trade union control over the collection of these statistics and

drawing up of our claim. Cuts are another major threat. There must be total opposition to all redundancies, voluntary or otherwise. We must fight all cutbacks which deprive the public of protection and us firemen of jobs. The full weight of the union has got to be thrown into the fight to defend jobs. We have long fought for a shorter working week. While accepting the 2:2:4 system—working two days, two 6.00 pm to 9.00 am nights, then four days off—is a vast improvement, it is not the end of the fight. If we won a 1:1:4 arrangement, I'm sure members would grab it with both hands, and it would bring us a lot nearer to the 35-hour week that we, with all other unions, should be fighting for throughout industry. The fight on wages and jobs

and to maintain and improve standards is tied up in a cause and effect process. Low wages and poor conditions are not heaven-sent: they are caused by the government and the system we live under. So workers are forced to fight again and again for better wages and to defend our jobs. In the long term therefore, the most important resolutions will be those on government policies and continuation of the programme to fully democratise the Labour Party, with a firm commitment to Clause IV, part 4 of its constitution, for socialist public ownership of the economy. This alone would make it possible for people to be treated with dignity and compassion, and not as now, as so much garbage to be disposed of by the Tories and big business.

## Tories and Bosses Damage Your Health

By our correspondent

In an industry where the majority of workers are women, the Tobacco Workers' Union conference this year will pay particular attention to their problems.

The mood of anger at the Tories and their empty election promises has created a willingness to fight as never before. Many women who did not vote or even voted Tory are rapidly realising that they are the intended victims of the vicious anti-working class onslaught by Britain's first woman prime minister.

The union should take practical steps to ensure that the number of women workers in its ranks is reflected in active members. It is vital that union meetings are organised in works time, to ensure that family commitments do not drag away potential activists.

As in every union the fight to keep jobs will dominate discussion. The union leadership has concentrated their fire on the 'anti-smoking campaign', which it holds responsible for redundancies in the industry.

They have therefore been drawn into an alliance with the employers, in arguing that smoking can be good for your health. Unprincipled money-grabbers like British American Tobacco and Imperial make strange companions for trade unionists.

The workers of Nottingham, for example, were not consulted as to whether the Players factory made cigar-

ettes or medicines. Their jobs should not depend on whether the employers choose to make what is socially necessary or simply what is most profitable.

The union must campaign on a policy of 'no redundancies'. Plans for the necessary industrial action to save jobs must be laid at every level of the union.

The bosses have never flinched at raking in the profits in the past. They should be told that if demand for their products is down they must find alternative work without worsening pay and conditions. If they cannot do this the only alternative must be nationalisation of the industry under workers' control and management.

The union has a record of standing on the left of the TUC. Now is the time to organise militant campaigns against every attack on our class.

This can only be done completely independently of the employers and their political representatives. Neither the bosses nor their Tory puppets offer us any solutions—our fight must be to bring down this Tory government and the system it represents.

## ACTION ON 14th-LONDON

**Greenwich/Bexley** assemble General Gordon Square (Woolwich Arsenal Station) 11-11.30 am. March to Maryon Park for rally at 12.30.

**Ealing/Hillingdon/Hounslow** assemble: 'Grapes' (Coldharbour Lane) 11.30-12 midday. March to Southall Park, rally at 1.00 pm.

**Richmond/Kingston** assemble: Kingston Power Station, Lower Ham Road, 11.00 am. March to 'Fairfield' (Kingston Library) for rally.

**Sutton/Croydon/Merton** assemble: Thornton Heath, 10-10.30 am. March to Central Croydon (Croydon Town Hall) for rally 12 midday.

**Bromley** assemble: H G Wells Centre, St Marks Road, Bromley 11.00 am. March to be fixed.

**Lewisham** assemble: Clock Tower, Lewisham High Street 10.30 am, march to Deptford.

**Hammersmith** assemble: Shepherds Bush Green 11.00 am for a rally.

**Islington** assemble: Archway 11.00 am, march to Highbury Fields for rally and gala 11.00 am-4.00 pm.

**Camden** assemble: Camden Town Hall (Bidborough Street), 12 midday.

**Havering** assemble: Central Park Dagenham, 10.00 am.

**Redbridge** assemble: St Chad's Park, Chadwell Heath, 10.00 am. **Barking** assemble: Barking Civic Centre, 10.00 am. **Dagenham** assemble: Chequers Lane, Dagenham, 10.00 am. March to Mayesbrook Park.

**Tower Hamlets** assemble: Commercial Road/Philpot Street, 10.30-11.00 am. **Hackney** assemble: Hackney Town Hall, Mare Street, 10.30-11.00 am. March to Victoria Park.

**Haringey** assemble: Prince of Wales Hospital N.15, 10.30 am. **Enfield** assemble: Middlesex Polytechnic, Queensway, Enfield, 10.30 am. March Pymme's Park Edmonton, rally 12 midday.

**Wandsworth** assemble at St Benedicts Hospital, Church Lane, Tooting, 12 noon. March to Clapham Common.

**Southwark** assemble: Camberwell Green, 11.30-12 midday. **Lambeth** assemble: Brixton Town Hall 11.30-12 midday.

**Barnet** assemble: Burnt Oak Broadway, 10-10.30 am. **Brent** assemble: Willesden Green Tube Station, 10-10.30 am. **Harrow** assemble: Harrow Civic Centre 10-10.30 am. March to Empire Way (Wembley Stadium) for rally.

## IRSF-FIGHTING MOOD

By an IRSF member

This year's Inland Staff Federation conference promises to be lively.

At the time of writing the government has not yet made us a pay offer. The later the offer and settlement, the more money employees will lose: the increase will not be back-dated.

If the pay agreement is anything less than 20%, the present rate of inflation, it will be a cut in real pay.

The majority of resolutions, although supporting the pay comparability scheme, call for the full settlement on 1 April and not in stages throughout the year. Yet the resolution 'starred' for debate by the Standing Orders Committee ignores this, merely calling for "the NEC to oppose by any means at its disposal, any action to erode the concept of "fair comparisons."

This bias in the starring of motions for debate is maintained in amendments to constitution and rules. Of the 71 motions in this section, 11 call for the election of the general secretary and for the position to be paid as a full-time officer.

This would be a tremen-

dous step towards democratising the union. The present general secretary is appointed by the executive for an unlimited period and paid at the rate for a parliamentary under-secretary, currently around £17,000 a year.

Of 13 resolutions submitted under the "Executive Committee/Secretarial" heading, four ask for details of the agenda and voting at Executive meetings and four call for a reduction in expenses paid to EC members and visiting speakers. In this section, the starred resolution "deplores the lack of response to members' correspondence by the secretariat."

Resolution 25 from Bootle sets out an alternative to job losses as a result of computerisation.

It calls for a positive policy to "implement a reduction in the working week and working lifetime with the introduction of a 35-hour working week or less, with no loss of pay, as a first step."

However the agenda is arranged, the resolutions show the movement for change within the Federation. The demand for a fighting union, equipped with policies to defend and further the interests of the members will grow as the Tory cuts bite and the crisis of their big business paymasters deepens.

## DERBYSHIRE MINERS DEMAND UNITED ACTION

By Tony Cross

(East Nottingham Labour Party)

"Miners aren't immune," is the sober message Derbyshire Area NUM conference delegates resolved to take back to their pits.

"Our pit lost £4½ million last year, purely due to management decisions we've no access to," said Chris Jones, Arkwright branch secretary.

Delegates were keenly aware of the threat to jobs particularly due to the run-down of the steel industry. Action as well as words were demanded from Lawrence Daly, general secretary.

Keith Harris of Markham No 1 branch pointed out that good resolutions were passed on pit closures but there was no lead from the top when it came to fighting them.

Mick McGahy, national vice president, outlined what a national campaign should be like. "It should be led by national officials, NEC members and every area and branch official on an inter-coalfield basis...to create the conditions to avoid isolated pits and isolated coalfields."

If there had been such a campaign there would have

been a different result in the South Wales ballot on industrial action against closures.

He linked this, however, to the demand for a ban on imported coking coal. At best this could only scratch the surface of the underlying problem—the massacre of steel, linked in turn to the massacre of Britain's manufacturing industry.

A campaign of the sort Mick McGahy outlined could be extended to involve steelworkers, dockers and other affected workers. It could halt the attacks on steel and if led properly, bring down the Tories and pave the way for a Labour government committed to socialist policies.

If the movement steers clear of the demand for import controls, we will be able to rely on tremendous international support for such a fight.

# NGA LOCKOUT - ONE OUT - ALL OUT

The National Graphical Association's struggle for a 37½-hour week and an £80 minimum wage has received a tremendous boost with the involvement of the national press.

The employers' gutter press was hit when NGA members on the 'Sun' and the 'News of the World' were called out on strike in support of their locked-out or striking brothers in the provinces.

The Newspaper Society, representing the owners of the provincial press, are determined to break the union in what has turned into an openly political battle.

Already most of the big provincial dailies are paying more than the NGA claim. The employers are refusing to recognise the claim and concede a reduction in hours which would actually make little difference to production.

They have declared that they will lock out all workers in dispute until the NGA sanctions are lifted. The lock-out will continue, they say, until the union ballots members on the offer: £12.79 with an hour off the working week in June and a further reduction of an hour in June 1981.

We are struggling to improve the position of our lower-paid members: for an increase of £17.79 and a 2½-hour reduction in the working week within the next twelve months.

Where members are earning £5 above the present minimum grade rate of £62.21, the employers are being allowed to 'absorb' (ie. not pay) £5 of the increase. The 'absorption' clause would apply to all the big employers currently taking a hard line against the NGA—they would be paying the least if they agreed to the union's demands.

Clearly our employers feel emboldened by Michael Edwards' apparent success in cowering British Leyland union leaders and forcing through his measures to undermine trade union organisation. They have even threatened to

By Tony  
Mulhearn

(Liverpool NGA  
branch committee)

go over the union's head and carry out their own ballot of the NGA membership. So far that threat has not been carried out.

The ruthlessness of the newspaper owners has been demonstrated by their determination to break the strike, using scab labour in Wolverhampton, Bradford and Swales on Merseyside.

Mass picketing has been part of the struggle at Bradford and Wolverhampton and in the face of the massive show of strength by the police to protect these scab papers, it is clear that the NGA leaders will have to organise an enormous mobilisation of the union's rank and file if we are to succeed.

The Merseyside scab paper is not actually printed at the strike-bound plant in Widnes but at an—as yet—unknown printers. The search for this scab firm is being intensively pursued.

At present some 15,000 NGA members have secured the claim and are thus exempt from industrial action. As an indication of the weakening resolve of the British Printing Industries Federation—the employers' organisation in general print—their president and vice-president have refused to issue the workers they employ with lock-out notices. In the Merseyside area, over 50% of employers have conceded the claim.

Those workers locked-out, on strike or sitting in are maintaining a tremendous level of morale, which is boosted as news of further concessions comes through.

But they are weakened by the fact that the NGA is fighting alone. The use of 'guerrilla' strike tactics also tends to create some confusion and a ragged effect, with some areas, like Merseyside, really crippling the employers while

others adopt only a minimum level of industrial action.

Bill Keyes, general secretary of SOGAT, the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades, accepted the employers' original offer and left the NGA to fight alone. As the dispute intensifies, pressure from his own membership has forced him to threaten that SOGAT members will join the action unless they receive the same settlement as NGA members.

What is required now is a declaration that SOGAT and the other print unions will fight shoulder to shoulder with the NGA—as they have already in some areas—and a stepping up of the action by the NGA, immediately stopping Fleet Street and using the strength of the union to crush the employers' resistance.

Before the present struggle started, the Liverpool NGA branch called for all members to be involved in any industrial action to maintain

## PRINTWORKERS: SOLIDARITY ESSENTIAL

Photo: MILITANT



Police chief clears the way for scab paper van at Wolverhampton 'Express and Star'

maximum solidarity. The critical position many of our members now face makes the call even more imperative.

★ Stop Fleet Street!  
★ One out—all out!

## NATSOPA join in stopping Brighton 'Argus'

NGA members on the 'Evening Argus,' part of the Westminster chain, were locked out last Monday. They had rejected an ultimatum to return to normal working or face suspension.

A paper was produced by management, scandalously with the help of a couple of NGA members. Mainly due to lack of leadership and clear instructions from union officials, it was published and distributed by NATSOPA members.

The drivers had to run a gauntlet of angry pickets held back by the police. Tuesday saw the picket line strengthened by a contingent from Kent. Two arrests were made.

Wednesday was another day of confrontation. 'Take the papers out or you're sacked,' the drivers were told.

The pickets were determined to stop the paper and, pathetic and truncated as it was, management were equally determined to get it out.

Plans were drawn up to intensify the picketing, and dates considered for large mass pickets. Inside, the pressure among NATSOPA members against co-operating with management was growing.

But Thursday morning again saw the paper appear. Out came the vans; one mounted the pavement surrounded by angry pickets.

'The mass picket will definitely be on now—we will stop this come what may,' was the pickets' attitude as they gathered together for the next round. The afternoon edition time drew near.

Then a cheer went up, 'What's going on, what's happened?' The NATSOPAs have had enough; they've told management they are not prepared to cross the picket line any more. Publication has been suspended until further notice.

The NATSOPA members are reporting for work and

getting paid, but for how long? Enormous pressure will be put on them.

The NGA chapel agreed to send them a letter regretting the events of the last few days, explaining why it was necessary and thanking them for finally coming to the right decision, with a pledge that in the event of any of their members being victimised the NGA will not return to work until any outstanding problems had been resolved to the satisfaction of NATSOPA.

The need for one union was a constant theme on the picket line.

Picketing will be kept up, and the plans for mass pickets remain. Knowing this management, they may well try to get a paper out.

Meanwhile the lock-out goes on, and the NGA members are digging in for a long haul. They didn't get away with it at 'The Times' and the Newspaper Society won't either.

## EMI MEDICAL, HAYES

When EMI medical was going we were producing 40 body and brain scanners a month. This was vital equipment for the health service.

Doctors and all medical staff recognise its importance because it can tell them at a glance, without exploratory surgery, many things that are going on inside a patient's body.

Our main market was the United States. Then the US government put on import controls and we went down the pan. This really shows how bad import controls are for the working class.

EMI Radlet was kept going, but EMI Hayes ceased scanner production. Some workers at Hayes were rede-

ployed on other parts of the Hayes site, some were made redundant.

The saddest part of it all is that our hospitals in Britain have not even got the basic scanners because of the cuts in the NHS. The factory could have continued work refurbishing old stock for the NHS. This could still be done today.

What some of us stewards wanted at the time was a link-up with the shop stewards and unions in the NHS, to ask them what they needed for hospitals, and then launch a joint campaign against redundancies in the factory and cuts in the NHS, aimed at providing the NHS with badly needed equipment. Unfor-

tunately this was not taken up by the stewards as a whole.

Now US-based General Electric has come along and taken over the medical part of Thorns, including EMI.

The policy, as with many other companies in this country, is to trim down the firm and just be left with a skeleton so that they still have something in case there is an economic revival. Thorns are trying to get rid of all the "problem" parts of the company, but keep hold of the technology and the expertise.

Now that redundancies are threatened again there must be a link up of all shop stewards on the Hayes site, and at Radlett. We must thrash out a firm plan for

co-operation between all the unions to oppose any job losses.

This is not just a fight for the jobs at the medical, but for the whole site. "If they come for me in the morning, they'll come for you in the night."

All the other sections of the site will come under the axe if the company get away with this one. Management have always tried to deal with us section by section; we cannot afford to let them divide us over this. Thousands of jobs could go because of Thorn's policy of reducing things to the bare bone.

The job situation is deteriorating in Hillingdon and West London as a whole.

People who go out of this factory will not be able just to walk into the airport or another factory as they have in the past. The working class cannot afford to let jobs disappear any more.

★ No redundancies at EMI  
★ For a massive campaign to save jobs  
★ United action if one more worker goes  
★ Open the company books, let's see where the profits have gone.

By John O'Brien

(EMI Medical shop  
steward, Ealing AUEW  
branch secretary)

## Bradford

While there was no danger of scabbing on locked-out NGA members at Fields and Watmoughs in Bradford, it was not the case at the 'Telegraph and Argus', our local newspaper.

Management were determined to get the paper out because, they assured us, it was a 'service' to the community. That 'service' doesn't seem to include paying NGA members their claim!

With the assistance of a few NGA members who are likely to be expelled from the union, they have been producing an 8-page paper, usually delayed because the doors the vans come out of are for some reason constantly being screwed shut!

A large picket has been the response. Provocation has not just come from the management however; the police have arrested five pickets up to now.

Pickets are hoping for support from other locked-out members in Bradford and around the region to ensure that the 'Telegraph and Argus' is shut down.

By Pete Watson  
(Bradford West  
Labour Party)

## USDAW black Klein Bros.

The two-month strike for union recognition at Klein Bros, Salford, by members of the National Union of Tailor and Garment Workers, is beginning to bite. Goods bearing Klein's 'Bendyke' label are being blacked by USDAW members—this must be stepped up and spread to every warehouse and shop nationally.

On May 14th, the Salford march will assemble near the factory and march past the gates, in a show of solidarity.

For more information contact NUT&GW, c/o 409 Wimslow Road, Withington, Manchester.

By Peter Gunn  
(Salford LPYS)

## Wandsworth council retreat

The walkout by 2,000 NALGO members in Wandsworth on 28 April [see last week's report] and the supporting action by council manual workers forced the Tory council officers to call a meeting with union reps on Wednesday night.

At this meeting the council agreed to pay the 44 Housing Management assistants for the period of their suspension and to reinstate them on Thursday without any entries on their personal records. The council have also agreed to pay all those who had refused to cross the picket lines mounted on the refuse department, mechanical workshops, transport section and the Battersea district office.

The reason for these picket lines was to gain the sympathy of the supervisors of these workplaces. With no supervision to guide their eager hands, the 300 manual workers employed in these sections were forced to take things easy until supervision returned!

The success of this combined action shows the way that the cuts must be fought.

By Dennis English  
(Wandsworth Council  
manual workers' convener)

## REDUNDANCY THREAT LOOMS WARNS SHOP STEWARD

ployed on other parts of the Hayes site, some were made redundant.

The saddest part of it all is that our hospitals in Britain have not even got the basic scanners because of the cuts in the NHS. The factory could have continued work refurbishing old stock for the NHS. This could still be done today.

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## MACGREGOR 'TRANSFER FEE' SCANDAL



Photo: MILITANT

# WORKERS MUST RUN STEEL INDUSTRY

**“Bordering on bribery and corruption!” Tony Benn’s description of the £1.8 million ‘transfer’ deal for the prospective new BSC boss, financier Ian MacGregor, is mild compared to the angry reaction of steelworkers.**

At the beginning of the long steel strike—deliberately provoked by the Tory government and the BSC management—the steelworkers were offered an insulting 5% increase, in reality a vicious cut in real wages. Yet now Sir Keith Joseph, backed by Thatcher, is prepared to bribe MacGregor’s banking employers, Lazard Freres, to part with this financial wizard.

The 70,000 steelworkers who have lost their jobs since 1977 received no such compensation for the ‘inconvenience’ of redundancy, which led most of them straight to the dole queue.

It is a scandal in itself that the head of a nationalised industry should be paid £48,500 a year, an inconceivable sum for the workers who produce the steel. But for MacGregor this basic salary will only be a ‘modest’ contribution to his total annual income, which is reckoned to be between £120,000 and £150,000 a year.

MacGregor will be a part-time chairman, retaining a

**By Lynn Walsh**

profitable interest in Lazard, seats on the boards of AMAX, Alumex, and the US Brunswick Corporation, and a dictatorship of the Atlantic Assets Trust in Edinburgh.

The biggest outrage, however, is the totally unprecedented agreement to ‘compensate’ Lazard Freres. They will get £675,000 come what may. But if MacGregor succeeds in restoring BSC profitability, they stand to gain an additionally £1,500,000 as a bonus for the new chairman’s performance.

There’s little doubt as to how this financial wizard, whose main experience has been in ‘reconstructing’ the balance sheets of various companies, will set about restoring BSC’s profitability. “My gravest concern is not how many redundancies there will be,” he told a press

conference, “but how many jobs we can salvage.” He has made it clear that he thinks the Corporation’s labour force may have to be cut by even more drastically than the third envisaged by Villiers.

So, if MacGregor succeeds in inflicting further unemployment and cuts in living standards on BSC workers, the former employers of this exotic managerial import will, through no efforts of their own, receive a bonus at the expense of BSC workers.

Nothing could show more clearly than this inept appointment the class arrogance and gross insensitivity of the Thatcher government. Even back-bench Tories are dumbfounded at Sir Keith Joseph’s crazy blunder. ‘The Times’ described the appointment as a ‘major error of judgement.’ The Tory ‘Telegraph’ referred to it as ‘worse than a crime—a mistake.’

The capitalist press, of course, fully support the Tory aim of slashing steel production and driving down steelworkers’ living standards. But they appreciate the need for slightly less crude methods.

They also understand—unlike Joseph and Thatcher, apparently—that ‘performance of BSC depends on a multitude of factors, of which the personality of the Chairman is hardly among the first five’ (‘Telegraph’).

Hardly less scandalous than this bribe is the fact that the government paid a firm of Anglo-American professional ‘head-hunters,’ Russell Reynolds, a fee of about £16,000 to find MacGregor.

Clearly, the Tories will look anywhere for managers—except within the steel industry itself. What about the men and women who produce the steel and run the industry?

They are the last people that the Tories or BSC management would consult!

Yet without them the industry would not continue for a day, as the magnificent strike demonstrated. Nobody knows better than the workers in the industry how it could be developed and improved in the interests of working people. Nobody has a clearer idea of the gross bungling and mis-management for which the existing capitalist-style management is responsible.

It is criminal vandalism to attempt to destroy the basis of steel-making in Britain, and to throw over 100,000 workers onto the stones. It is a crime to aim at running the industry on low wages, crippling productivity schemes, and the destruction of trade union rights.

BSC is a nationalised corporation. It is supposed to be run in the interests of society as a whole. The Tories themselves, however, have made it clear that the only way this can be done is by taking the industry out of the hands of the existing management and placing it under the control of the labour movement.

The labour movement must reject the appointment of MacGregor and any similar appointments within the industry. We must campaign now for the establishment of democratic workers’ control and management in the steel industry, and in all the other nationalised industries as well.

The nationalised industries should be run by boards composed of one third from the trade unions in the industry, one third from the TUC (representing the labour movement as a whole) and one third appointed by the government.

## TORIES OUT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

education and health would be damaged by cuts! They said Labour warnings of Tory VAT rises and school meal price increases were lies.

But the Tories have not introduced their massive programme of unemployment and cuts and their policies to shackle the unions simply out of malicious hatred of the workers. It is part of a deliberate strategy to transfer wealth in society from the working class even more into the hands of the bosses.

Just one per cent of the population have a strangle hold on the economy with control over half of share capital. They could hardly have found more sympathetic help than from this Tory cabinet—which the ‘Daily Mirror’ estimates to be the richest in personal wealth since 1822!

There are wealthy landowners like Lord Carrington, whose lands may now be worth at least £10 million; Sir Ian Gilmour who owns huge Scottish estates. There are big-business figures like Hestline [Haymarket Group], Joseph [formerly Bovis] etc.

The overwhelming public school, Oxbridge cabinet members and their class don’t suffer from unemployment or use the services being cut. They do hope to reap the extra profits the ruling class want to extract from workers’ labour.

British capitalism faces a catastrophe. Its share of world trade in manufactures has steadily slipped, from 25% in 1950 to about 8% today.

The level of big business profitability has slumped, in

real terms, from about 10.5% in the early 1970s to 3% or 4% now.

This is the result of the failure, over decades, of the British capitalists to re-invest in the modernisation of industry. Workers in Germany, America, Japan and elsewhere work shorter hours, have longer holidays, get more pay—but they have more machinery and better technology, so they produce more.

But faced with this crisis, the British bosses are determined to off-load the crisis onto our backs. To bail themselves out, to restore profitability, they are prepared to inflict unemployment, poverty, and even worse exploitation on millions of workers and their children.

Faced with this, the only course for the labour movement is to mobilise all its forces to bring down the Tories.

The idea put forward by the TUC general secretary, Len Murray, that the trade unions should simply ‘seek to deflect and deter governments from their policies when they thought they were wrong,’ is lamentably inadequate.

“The TUC’s campaign,” said Len Murray, “would continue until the government changed its course.” But it is futile to expect any fundamentally better policies from a big-business government.

The TUC should have declared May 14 a 24-hour general strike. Nevertheless, massive action on the Day of Action will bring together tens of thousands of workers already involved in local campaigns and industrial action against Tory policies.

It will powerfully reinforce the fight against the Tories. But it must be regarded as a spring-board for a mass country-wide campaign to bring down the Tories and win an overwhelming majority of support for a Labor government committed to implementing bold socialist policies.

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