

Militant

THE MARXIST PAPER FOR LABOUR & YOUTH

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Pit closures. Steel closures. Factory closures...

SACK THATCHER

Miners' galas show growing anger

The Tory government's so-called 'solutions' to the capitalist crisis are making industrial deserts of huge parts of Britain.

Nowhere is this more apparent than in the mining and steelmaking areas of South Wales.

The industrial heartland of the region is being systematically destroyed and redundancies, closures, short time and layoffs are on the order of the day.

The Tories, who have nothing to fear of losing votes in South Wales, are rubbing their hands at the lengthening dole queues. The massive run down in the steel industry will put tens of thousands on the dole by Christmas. In the first quarter of this year more than 20,000 redundancies were announced in Wales, five times bigger than the same period in 1979.

On 26 May Ian MacGregor, the BSC's answer to BL hatchet man

By Phil White
(St Johns NUM)
and Steve Morgan
(President, AUEW,
Maesteg)

Edwardes, warned that Port Talbot steel works still face closure. What a kick in the guts.

"The storm clouds are becoming darker," added MacGregor. Storm clouds! In the Afon valley with the closure of a public publishing firm the unemployment rate will be over 40%.

The National Coal Board/BSC agreement over coal from Margam is due to run out at the end of the year. The prospect of 4,200 pit jobs disappearing is on the cards.

Ezra's puppet, Mr Philip Weeks, South Wales NCB director, made it clear that this was on top of the 2,400 jobs at risk in the pits under closure threats.

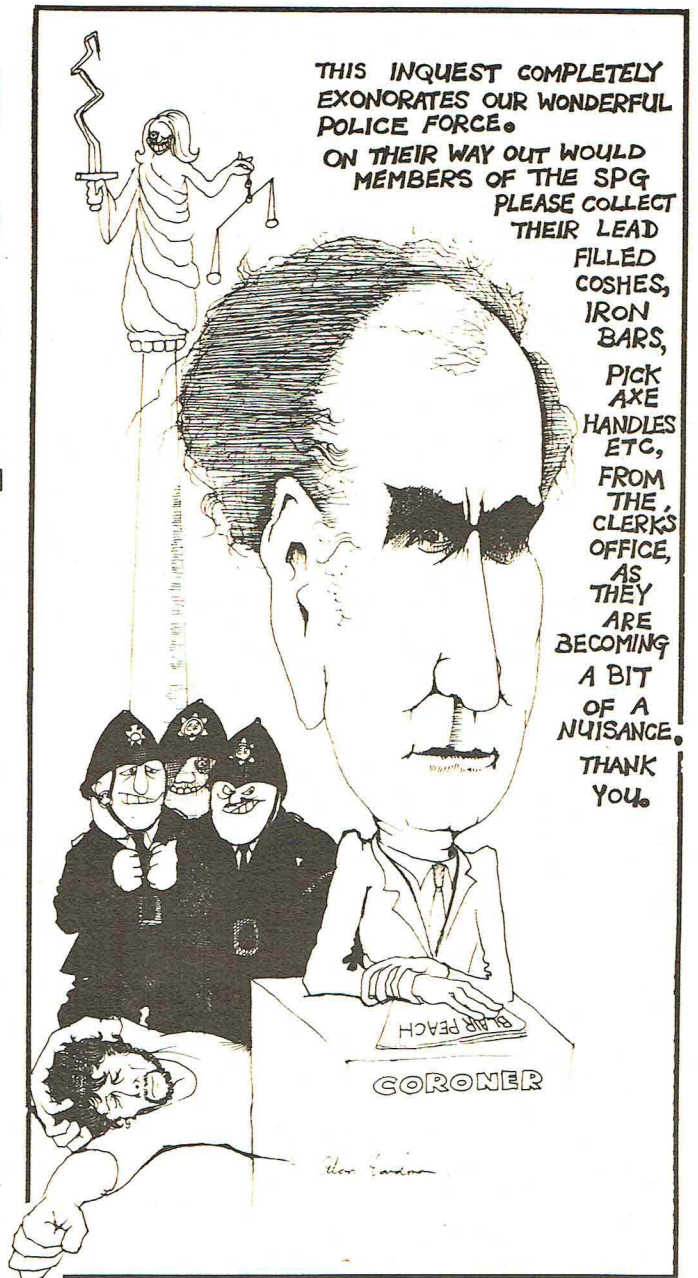
The agreement is vulnerable because of the high costs of British coal. This is due to Tory cuts in expenditure on nationalised industries and the failure to subsidise British coal by the same amount as its overseas competitors.

Referring to the future of the threatened 12 pits, Mr Weeks described the £35 million loss as the 'albatross around the neck of the South Wales coalfield'! Weeks, like the rest of the NCB mandarins, wants the miners to pay for the NCB's mismanagement.

We will resist the rundown of our industry with all the means at our disposal. It is they who are the albatrosses around our necks that need replacing.

Our town of Maesteg, with its pits St John's and Coegnant, relies totally

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Blair Peach: see page 5



Photo: MILITANT

LABOUR PARTY SPECIAL CONFERENCE CALLS FOR SOCIALIST CAMPAIGN-

Bring down the Tories

Labour's Special Conference at Wembley last Saturday unmistakably confirmed the rank-and-file's overwhelming support for bold, socialist policies.

Delegate after delegate called for a campaign "on a class-war footing," as one speaker said—to mobilise the Labour Party, the trade unions, and mass working class support to bring down the Tory government and return a Labour government committed to the implemen-

By Lynn Walsh

tation of socialist policies.

Those who spoke in the six-hour debate, representing every section of the movement and every area of the country, expressed the bitter anger of workers at devastating cuts being

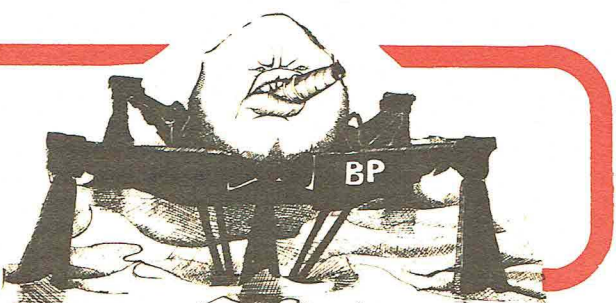
imposed by the Tory government. The verdict was unanimous: Thatcher's is the most vicious anti-working class government since the 1930s, or even since the 19th century.

Even Labour MPs and trade union leaders not previously noted for their

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OIL CRISIS

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Militant

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MAKING LABOUR'S PROGRAMME A REALITY

Labour's Special Conference [31 May] was a step forward in the fight against the Tories.

The bitter hostility of the labour movement towards Thatcher's government was forcefully expressed by delegate after delegate. Overwhelmingly, conference reflected the rising tide of opposition to the government's anti-working class programme. The demand for a campaign to force a general election and get the Tories out of office as soon as possible won the support of the vast majority of those present.

The profound shift towards the left within the Labour Party over recent years was clearly shown. Trade union delegates and CLP delegates spoke in

stark, class terms not generally used in the Labour Party for decades. Ron Todd of the T&GWU referred to the "...crisis of capitalism" and its catastrophic consequences for workers and their families.

Yet it was not simply opposition to the Tories that delegates were calling for. Moss Evans demanded a "socialist alternative" to the government. The radical programme of reforms presented by the NEC was overwhelmingly endorsed by 164,000 to 60,000. Such is the pressure within the labour movement for a fighting alternative to Thatcher that even past opponents of the policies outlined in the NEC statement, such as NEC member Gerry Russell of the AUEW, David Bassnett of the G&MWU, and 'moderate' MP Gavin Strang spoke in support of it.

Even Callaghan eschewed a direct attack on the statement, but tried to counterpose the idea of an incomes policy as a necessity for the next Labour government—an idea that was met with outright rejection by both trade union and CLP delegates.

The conference gave an enthusiastic reception to those calling for a departure from the 'mild Thatcherism' pursued by the last Labour government between 1974-79, echoing a point made many times by 'Militant' and taken up by Eric Heffer in his reply to the debate when he said that the next Labour government must defend the interests of the working class just as energetically as Thatcher now defend the interests of her class.

The pledges made in the NEC statement for the next Labour government—to move towards a 35-hour week, restore cuts in public expenditure, extend public ownership, re-nationalise without compensation anything hived off by the Tories, and to abolish the House of Lords—won the enthusiastic endorsement of conference.

However, as 'Militant' supporters pointed out, the crucial question remains: how can such a programme of reforms be maintained?

Tony Benn correctly said in his summing up that the reality was "that welfare capitalism was not on offer." Surely, only with the implementation of Clause 4, part 4 of the party constitution, could the programme outlined in the NEC state-

ment be enacted and maintained?

Labour's right-wing is clearly opposed to most of the programme presented to conference. In the main, however, they failed to take their opposition to the rostrum. Even so, throughout the conference the pro-capitalist programme they advocate was vigorously rebuffed. Jim Callaghan's plea for no extra-parliamentary action against the government to force an early election was rejected by Eric Heffer and Tony Benn with the support of the vast majority of the delegates.

The derisory reception given to Denis Healey when he attacked the 'Militant' was in sharp contrast to the ovation given to Eleanor McLoughlin from Edinburgh when she warmly defended the LPYS, indicating the attitude of the vast majority of party members.

There was no consolation for the right wing at Wembley. Only one or two speakers even attempted to defend right-wing policies, and the conference has predictably provoked a storm of criticism from the capitalist press. They are screaming about Labour's policies, not because they really think that they will have no appeal to masses of workers as they pretend, but on the contrary because they fear that radical policies will win mass support for policies that will pose a threat to the wealth and power of the ruling class.

For once the right-wing 'Daily Express' blurted out the truth: "In the Labour Party it is the left who are

making the running; they are the source of ideas and energy and fervour. Mr Callaghan, Mr Healey and other Labour moderates are on the defensive..."

The right wing have unmistakably lost the argument on policy and programme. Yet still the so-called 'moderates' [ie. right-wing extremists] who still unfortunately dominate the Parliamentary Labour Party are determined to dominate party policy and retain control of the party's apparatus.

But their cynical contempt for the Labour Party is revealed by the statement of Bill Rodgers MP and others that if they are defeated and the process of re-selection begins, they will have no hesitation in splitting from the Labour Party and standing against it—a course of action which could only benefit the Tories.

For the time being, however, they have decided against an immediate departure and are hoping to regain a majority at the party conference in October, with the help of some of the right-wing leaders of the big trade unions.

They may possibly win a temporary majority at this year's conference, and attempt to block the steps towards party democracy and re-structure the NEC to give the parliamentary right a built-in domination of the party.

But any such victory will be hollow and short-lived. The reason they have been undermined by the swing to the left is that, in the context of a continuing,

deepening crisis of capitalism and the resulting nightmare for workers and their families, their right-wing policies are historically finished. The 'mixed economy' can no longer provide the basis for the programme of reforms that they envisaged—and this will ensure their rejection by the ranks of the labour movement when engaged in a desperate fight to defend workers' living standards and rights.

The struggle for increased democracy within the Labour Party must, however, be intensified. The gains made at last year's conference must be defended and built upon. They are essential to ensure the leadership of the party is accountable and reflects the socialist aspirations of the labour movement.

The special party conference adopted a major programme of reforms. These must now be taken up and fought for by the entire labour movement as part of a campaign to force the Tories out of office and return a Labour government to power.

If that Labour government is to maintain the reforms being demanded by the party then it must break the strait-jacket imposed on it by capitalism.

Only the nationalisation of the 200 monopolies, banks and insurance firms which dominate the economy, with minimum compensation, and under democratic workers' control and management will allow such a course. This is the programme that must now be adopted and fought for by the Labour Party.

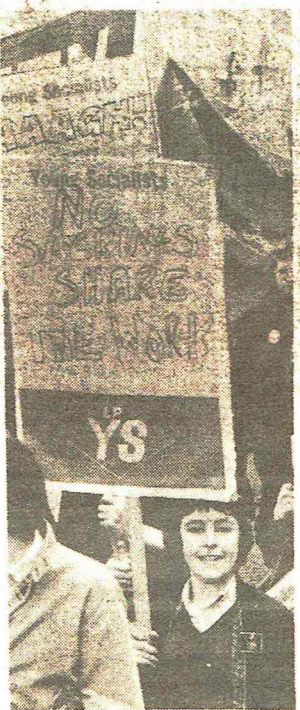
LPYS Hit the streets

After reading the LPYS paper, 'Socialist Youth', sixteen apprentices in Sowerby, Yorkshire, have decided to set up a Labour Party Young Socialists. They have invited Gary Hawes, the Yorkshire National Committee member, to a meeting at which they plan to get 40 people.

This one incident shows that young workers are increasingly becoming aware of the need for a political fight-back against the Tories.

In Newbattle, a young convenor has agreed to join the LPYS, and she is taking leaflets and tickets for the local YS disco to recruit in her factory, which employs 200, mainly young women. Newbattle have already recruited five new members at their Week of Action unemployment conference, so they should be well on the way to the week's target of twenty new members.

The LPYS Week of Action against youth unemployment began on May 31, and while the southern half of Britain was soaked in torrential rain, Scotland recorded an excellent response to Saturday's Day of Action. Provan LPYS sold 132 copies of 'Militant' and



'Socialist Youth' and in Kilmarnock, where the YS took a loud-hailer with them for a street meeting, the YS sold 60 papers. In the build-up to the Week of Action, Craigton YS held a meeting of over 40 which recruited 12 new members, as did Gateshead East in the Northern Region.

'Wanted: A Future for School Leavers,' page 16

NO TO ARMS!

The special conference came out clearly against the monstrous waste of resources on armaments, and strongly condemned the Tories' attempts to use Iran and Afghanistan to divert attention from problems at home with nationalistic, militaristic propaganda.

But as on the main economic issues, the majority of delegates who spoke on this issue made it clear that the NEC statement did not go far enough.

There was loud applause for Jack Body's comment that the Statement's call for a reduction in "defence" spending to the level of our European "allies" was not enough. A Labour government should implement complete disarmament.

He and other speakers were also strongly supported in opposing the basing of American cruise missiles in Britain—a call endorsed from the platform by Tony Benn and Joan Lester—and Mike Davis received loud applause for his direct call for withdrawal from NATO.

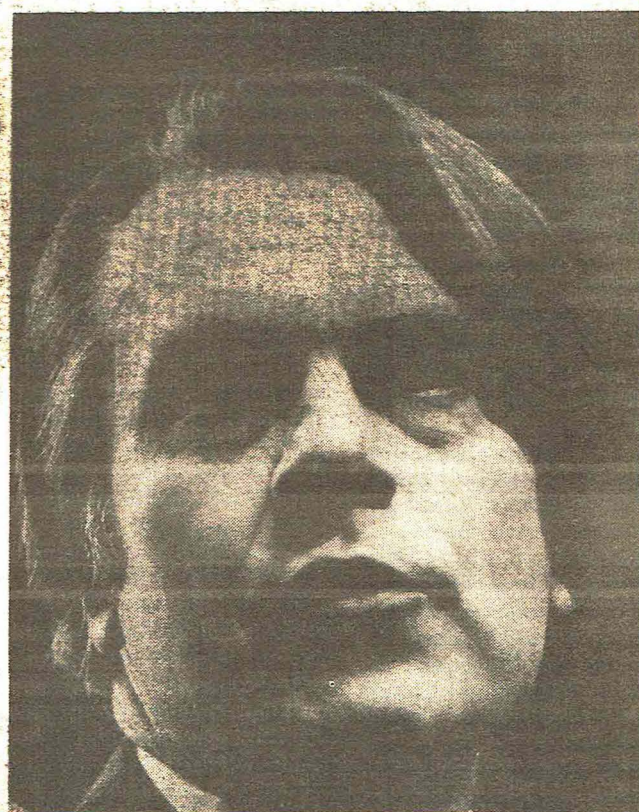
Dr David Owen's contribution on this issue provoked a storm of opposition. He had already put the conference against him by arguing that the next Labour government had to work out "priorities" and could not promise immediate cash for everybody—i.e. all the Tories' cuts could

Labour's Special Conference

not be restored by Labour. Then he turned to "disarmament", arguing that it was an urgent priority, but saying "we could not pre-empt future discussions." His attempt to silence criticism by remarking that he spoke "as one who has been involved in disarmament negotiations" only provoked more anger. When he concluded by denouncing unilateralism, and asserting that we "must negotiate with the Soviet Union from a position of strength, not weakness," (i.e. with our own nuclear armaments) his closing words were drowned by barracking and shouts of opposition.

Shortly afterwards, there was loud applause for the criticism from Martin Flannery, MP for Sheffield Hillsborough, of the Parliamentary Labour Party's policy of abstention on the Tories' last defence estimates—when only 70 Labour MPs actually voted against the Tories' 3% increase (in real terms) in armaments spending.

While, however, there was almost unanimous condemnation of the squandering of valuable resources on armaments, and an emphatic rejection of what one speaker



Dr David Owen, right-wing Foreign Secretary in the last Labour government: "His ideas should have no part in Labour's manifesto," delegates agreed.

called the right-wing Labour leaders' "sycophancy" towards US imperialism's "cold war" policies, there was unfortunately little analysis in the debate of the social, economic, and class factors underlying the arms race and the international conflict bet-

ween the super powers. Whatever the limitations of the debate, however, there was absolutely no doubt that the great majority supported the comment that the ideas of David Owen should have no part in the framing of Labour's Manifesto.

LABOUR PARTY SPECIAL CONFERENCE

BRING DOWN THE TORIES

Continued from front page

militancy used class language to condemn Thatcherite policies.

The real debate was on Labour's alternative policies, and how the Tories should be fought. As Eric Heffer MP commented in summing up the morning's debate, most of the criticisms of the NEC Statement presented to the conference were from the left, on the grounds that "it didn't go far enough."

Many delegates, and particularly a number of 'Militant' supporters who were prominent in the debate, pointed out that the radical reforms proposed in the policy statement could not be implemented except through a rounded-out socialist programme based on the nationalisation of the big monopolies, banks and finance houses.

The Special Conference was a devastating blow to Labour's right wing, many of whom opposed the holding of the conference at all. Since the annual conference last October, the right wing of the Parliamentary Labour Party, backed by the capitalist press, have tried to claim that the NEC's left-wing policies are "unrepresentative of the majority of the Labour Party." They got their answer at Wembley.

Many delegates, together with Tony Benn from the platform, also warned against the right wing's frantic manoeuvres aimed at reversing the decisions made last October on party democracy, particularly their efforts to block the introduction of automatic re-selection, which would ensure rank-and-file control over Labour MPs.

Jim Callaghan's cautious attempt—phrased in very diplomatic language—to justify the pro-big business policies of the last Labour government and to argue that an incomes policy would be essential next time too, was completely rejected by the overwhelming majority of the conference.

A number of prominent trade union spokesmen, like David Bassnett (General and Municipal Workers) and Moss Evans (Transport and General Workers) made it clear that the Tory assault on workers' conditions and rights must be answered by a bold defence of working-class living standards, and that there was no question of a return to pay policies which would only further undermine the living standards of workers.

Only one or two delegates appeared on the rostrum to defend the discredited policies of the right.

When Denis Healey was called he was greeted with

jeers of 'Out, Out', and there was an audibly hostile reception to his defence of the right wing's economic policies. He provoked even more hostility when he turned on the left, and on the 'Militant' in particular. Labour would not win the next election, he asserted, if, instead of meeting the real needs of the British people, "we go on ideological ego trips or accept the clapped-out dogmas which are now being retailed by the Toy Town Trotskyists of the Militant group." His closing words were drowned with cries of 'Off! Off!', as virtually the whole conference expressed its indignation at his outburst.

When Leslie Sillitoe of the Ceramic and Allied Workers attacked "those selling Militant" and accused them of "trying to cut us into two," he too got a very hostile response.

Other right-wing speakers, like the delegate who argued that socialist policies must be based on an acceptance of a "no growth economy" and the Secretary of the Fabian Society who claimed to support the NEC statement, as being "bland enough," but then attacked its key policies as "unrealistic" and "self-righteous," received a cool reception.

"We can't afford to wait another four years!"

In marked contrast, there was strong support for a number of 'Militant' supporters who featured prominently in the debate.

Ray Apps, Brighton Kemp-town CLP, speaking early in the debate, welcomed the conference as an opportunity to weld the Labour Party and trade unions together in a movement to throw out the Tory government as soon as possible. It was not good enough to confine oneself to speeches in parliament, he said, the working class had to be mobilised.

The radical policies put forward in the document would arouse the hopes of the working class: but would they be dashed? This depended on whether Labour took over the wealth produced by manufacturing industry. It was not enough just to attack the Tories, Labour must attack the system which the Tories represent. It was time to take the Clause 4, part 4, on every member's party card out of our pockets, dust them off, and implement rounded-out socialist policies based on clause 4.

Terry Fields, Fire Brigades Union delegate, said his union supported the docu-

ment, but he felt that it didn't go far enough. The statement failed to explain the worldwide crisis of capitalism, and the special crisis of British capitalism. There was no other way for Thatcher, the crisis dictated the attack on the living standards of workers and their families. To loud applause, he warned that a Labour government that attempted to work with the same capitalist framework would fail as sure as night follows day.

Co-operation and unity between the Labour Party and the trade unions was vital, Terry agreed. But it was a question of what the programme would be. Only a socialist plan of production covering the whole of the economy, giving democratic control to the working class, could provide the resources necessary to establish a new working-class democracy in a socialist state. Elitists, faint-hearts, and traitors had no place in our party, and should get out. "Our class is strong," he said, "and our class will win!"

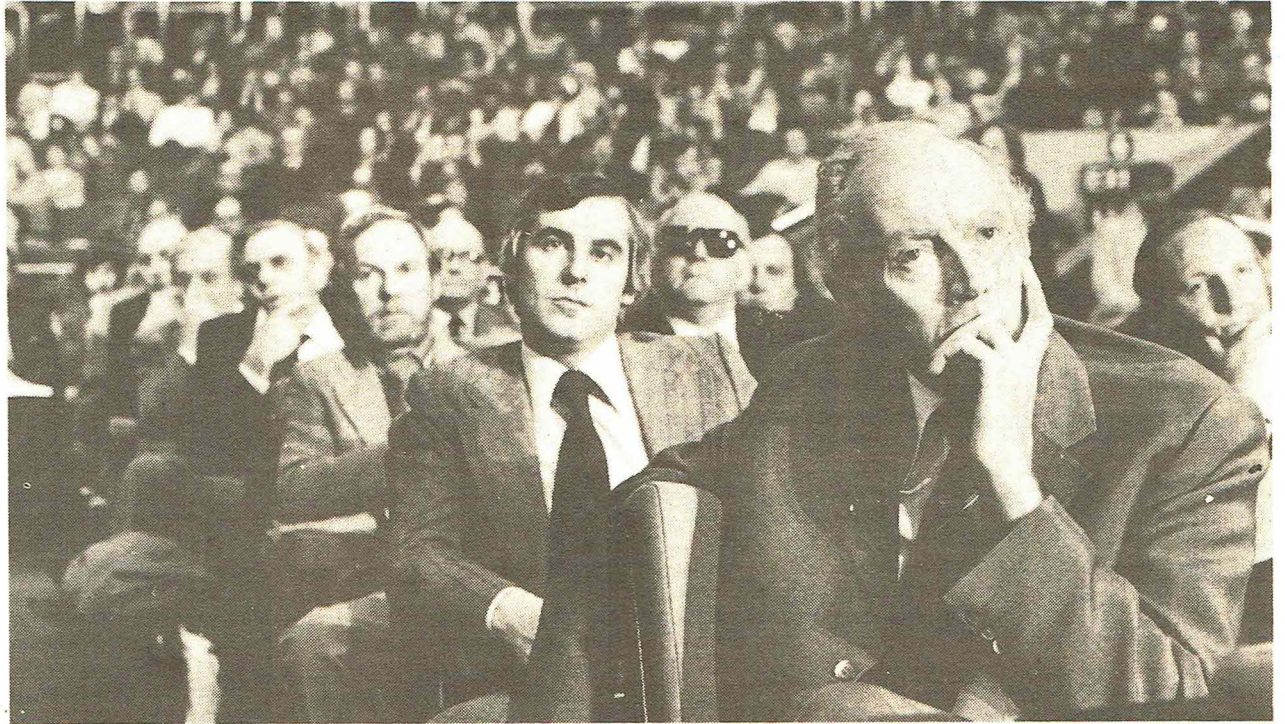
There was sustained applause for the contribution of Geoff Price, from Newcastle Labour Party, and his contribution was singled out for raising an issue of paramount importance by Tony Benn in his summing up. Geoff said that he had just completed a "one year, five month sentence of unemployment" on Tyneside. He gave horrifying examples of unemployment, especially amongst young people.

"We can't afford to wait another four years for the return of a Labour government. We must campaign now. We must fight now for the implementation of a 35-hour week, which would immediately save 700,000 jobs, and also for an £80 a week minimum wage to ensure that there is no loss of earnings."

Planning agreements, Jeff said, which invariably involved massive hand-outs to big business, would not work. The socialist aim in Clause 4, part 4, was adopted by the Labour Party in 1918. The question was: why hasn't it yet been carried out?

In contrast to the lukewarm reception for Jim Callaghan at the opening of the conference, Tony Benn's summing-up speech, in which he reaffirmed Labour's commitment to implement the radical reforms outlined in the Statement, was greeted with a standing ovation from many delegates and with prolonged applause.

The NEC document, "Peace, Jobs, Freedom" (analysed in 'Militant' last week) was approved by conference by 5,164,000 votes to 6,000 on a card vote.



Fight for party democracy

A packed lunch-time meeting launched the ad hoc Mobilisation Committee for Labour Democracy, to co-ordinate the fight within the party to defend the decisions made at last year's conference on party democracy and to take the struggle further.

There was enthusiastic applause for the invitation from Frances Morrell (formerly Tony Benn's political advisor at the Department of Energy), to the 'Militant' to join the Committee.

"Whatever differences there are on policy, on the question of party democracy, we should all be totally united," she said.

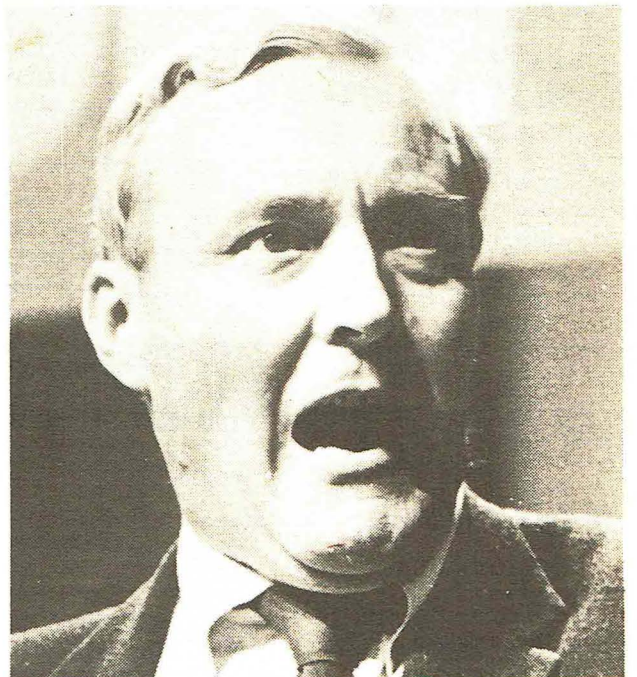
To even louder applause, she added: "The other reason that I want 'Militant' to join is to show our absolute contempt for the witch-hunt tactics, by which we will not be intimidated." 'Militant' had written to the Mobilising Committee indicating its willingness to join (although Frances Morrell was apparently unaware of this at the time of speaking).

The significance of the overwhelming support expressed at this meeting for the 'Militant's' right to be active within the Labour Party was confirmed by the almost hysterical reports in some of the capitalist press. According to the number one gutter Sunday, the 'News of the World,' the Mobilising Committee's invitation to 'Militant' means "Benn calls up the Trots to rule Labour," and there was a similarly rabid front page headline on Monday's 'Daily Express': "Benn calls up the Trots."

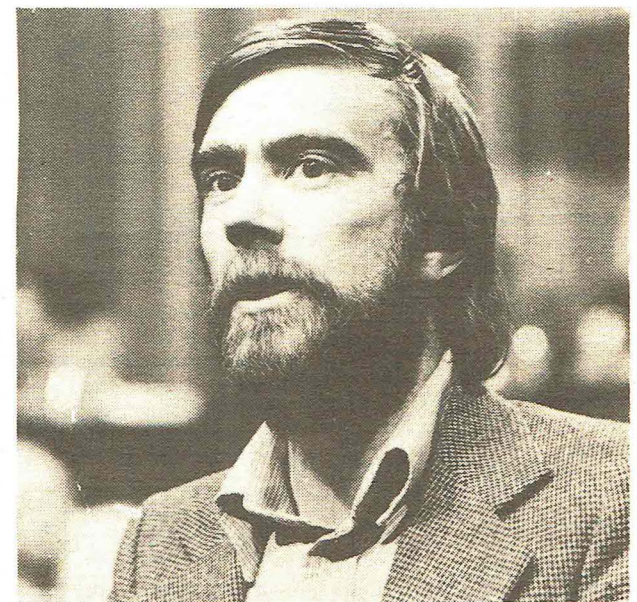
The Committee's aims are: to defend the conference commitment to mandatory re-selection of MPs; reverse the conference decision that MPs should continue to elect the party leader; keep control of the manifesto with the NEC; and make Labour MPs accountable to the party. The committee has also come out in favour of retaining the present structure of the NEC.

Speaking briefly from the platform, Joan Maynard MP, Reg Race MP and Tony Benn

Mobilising Committee meeting expresses contempt for anti-'Militant' witch-hunt



Tony Benn [Above]; Geoff Price [below]. Special Conference photos by Julian McKittrick/Militant



MP warned of the all-out campaign being waged by the right wing of the parliamentary party to maintain their domination of the party. If socialist policies were to be implemented, there must be a massive extension of democracy.

Bob Wright of the AUEW, who will be contesting the

union's presidential elections later this year, also called for a stepping up of the campaign throughout the trade unions and the Constituency Labour Parties to defend the decisions on democracy and fight for parliamentary representatives that are prepared to fight for the policies decided by the rank and file.

Militant Readers Meetings

GROWING DEMAND FOR MARXISM

The first ever Militant Readers' Meeting to be held in Cumberland, West Scotland, attracted over fifty people—a sure indication of the growing awareness of Marxist policies within the labour movement.

The speakers were Joe Lynch, secretary of the local Trades Council, and Peter Taaffe, the editor of 'Militant'.

Joe listed the numerous closures and thousands of redundancies recently an-

By 'Militant' reporters

nounced in the West of Scotland—an unemployment blackspot. Public sector workers, he said, are the prime targets of the government at present: they intend to make an example of them before the winter round of wage demands.

Peter dealt with all the questions raised during the meeting, as well as explaining why import controls are no solution to the capitalist crisis.

"Retaliation by foreign capitalists, a protected market at home leading to even lower investment and higher prices would lead to a cut in the market and increased unemployment," he said.

£26 was raised for the fighting fund.

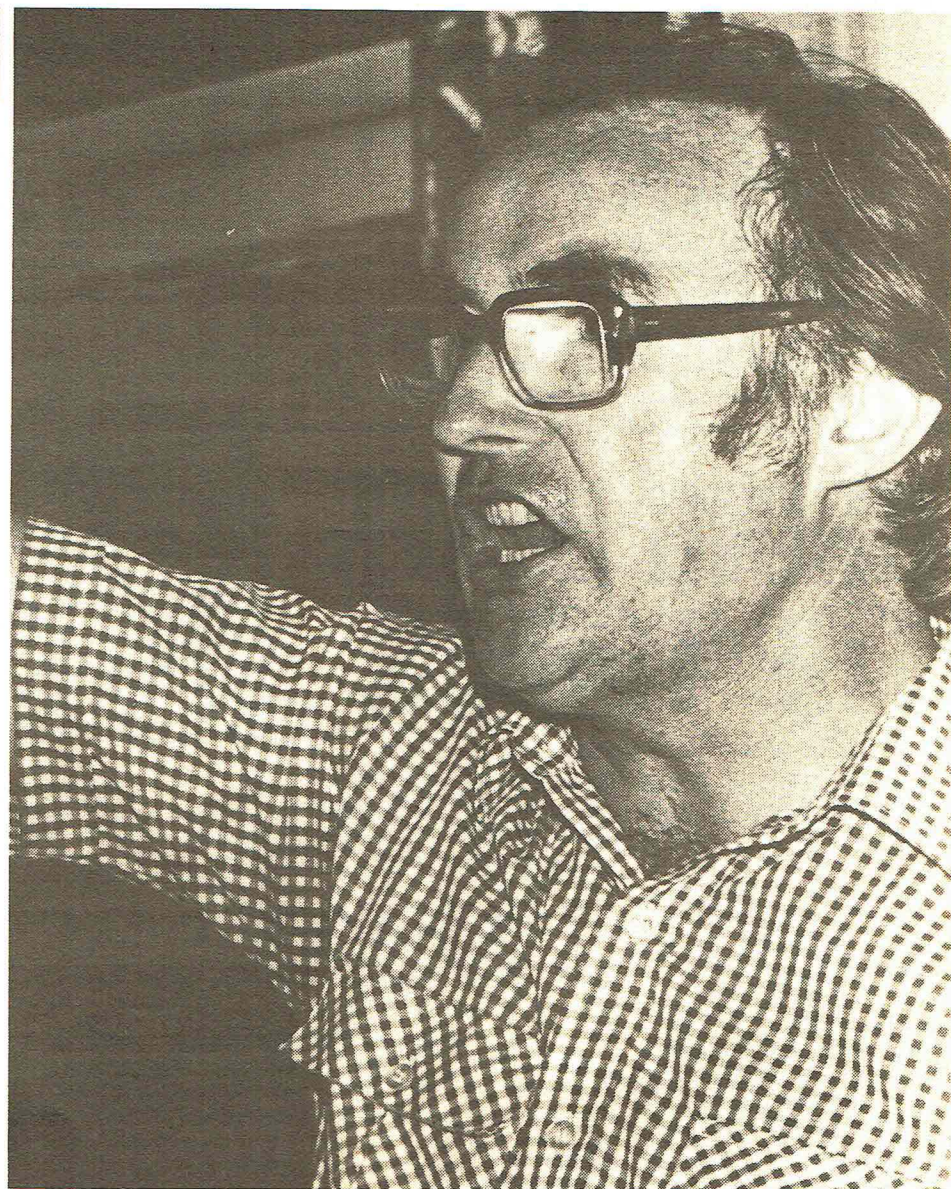
Joint debates between 'Militant' and other sections of the labour movement are proving popular throughout the country.

A recent debate held between 'Militant' and 'Tribune' in Chester attracted an audience of 50, who heard Allan Roberts MP ('Tribune') and Tony Mulhearn ('Militant') debate the way forward for a future Labour government.

Allan spoke first, outlining the 'Tribune' programme of reflation behind a wall of import controls. Anticipating opposition from 'Militant' supporters he emphasised the selective and temporary nature of the import controls they advocate, explaining that they would give a 'breathing space' to enable industry to be revitalised.

Tony Mulhearn, in his contribution, began by explaining the catastrophic decline of British capitalism and the implications for working people.

The 'Tribune' programme, he said, did not challenge the power of capitalism and by its gradualist nature could be likened to extracting the claws of a tiger one by one. He who managed to get the first one out would be unlikely to be allowed by the tiger to



Peter Taaffe

touch the second!

And in Swansea, Young Socialists were surprised to hear that they will all be Tories by the time they are thirty! Or so believed Mr Frank Evans of the Campaign for Labour Victory.

He was debating with Rob Sewell, for 'Militant', in a meeting organised by the Swansea LPYS.

After presenting an analysis of the situation today—concluding that Labour was

in for a long period of opposition (!)—Mr Evans went on to put the socialist policies of 'Militant' down to 'youthful exuberance', and said that 'Militant' supporters were not real members of the Labour Party and later on in life would probably end up voting Tory.

In contrast to this, Rob Sewell explained how capitalism offered no future for youth other than a return to the deprivation and misery of

the thirties.

He said, "The Labour Party was not founded to carry out the dictates of the system but to do away with it, and implement the socialist demands written into Clause IV of the constitution."

Other 'Militant' Readers' Meetings have been held recently in Birmingham, where £51 was raised for the fighting fund, and at the Fire Brigades Union conference in Bridlington.

Fightback with the LPYS

Inspired by the YS national conference at Llandudno, members of Eastbourne LPYS held a Day of Action the following Saturday on the question of the local housing cuts.

The Tory government has slashed over £3 million off Eastbourne's housing allocation (almost half) and as a result, no new council houses will be built by 1981/82. Combined with the sale of over 1,200 council houses, this will mean real hardship for many young couples looking for a home.

With almost the lowest wages and second highest house prices in the country they just cannot afford to buy their own houses.

Single people are also hard hit. Many live in substandard, multiple company dwellings in the centre of town. Over 400 of them are on the waiting list, but what chance do they have now?

The anger of young people against these conditions clearly showed in the response to our leafletting and petition.

Many expressed bitter feelings against the Tories and local bosses. Several promised to come along to our next meeting and we have a list of 20 names of potential members.

Despite the decision of the local council to prevent us erecting a stall or sell papers in the main thorough-fare, it was the most successful Day of Action Eastbourne YS has ever held.

The message to us was clear. We've only got to get out and let young people know the YS exists and has the socialist policies to fight back with. On that basis we can build a mass socialist youth movement.

By Bob Campbell
(Eastbourne LPYS)

'Nurseries' Conference



Parents occupy the Nightingale Lane nursery in Wandsworth, London. Campaigns such as this must be co-ordinated nationally.

SHE SHALL HAVE DEMOS WHEREVER SHE GOES

Margaret Thatcher's tour of the North East was marked by demonstrations everywhere she went.

Her visit to the British Gas Research Station at Killingworth is a typical example. She was due to arrive at 1.00 pm, so a group of

working people (of all ages) assembled beforehand at the gate, including a score of women from a local factory.

Before Thatcher arrived everyone was in good humour, and the chants of 'Maggie Out!' were all in unison. Thirty seconds later Thatch-

National campaign needed

By Tracy Matsell
(Beeston CLP)

In a bid to set up a national organisation to combat nursery closures, a special conference was convened in Nottingham last month—the first of its kind ever.

Speakers representing groups from Wandsworth, Oxford, Leicester and Nottingham outlined the cuts and subsequent nursery campaigns in their areas. Discussion groups followed, and resolutions were passed.

The Labour Party should, the conference decided, give active support to campaigns for the under-5s. Labour

councils should refuse to implement the cuts, and refuse to raise rents, rates or fees, as this put increasing pressure upon hard-pressed working people.

They also called upon Labour councils to demand that the money necessary for adequate services be provided by government funding linked to the real rate of inflation (as determined by trade unions for example) and for workers' pay to be linked in the same way.

The conference pledged support to the National Policy of NUPE for the occupation

of threatened facilities, as well as calling all trade unions to involve and recruit more women, understanding that many women cannot attend union meetings in the evening due to their family commitments.

The conference also stressed it was opposed to all cuts.

From this conference a national co-ordinating committee was set up to liaise with nursery campaigns nationwide in preparation for a national conference in London on 5th July.

er's car drew up to the gate and was almost swept away by an outburst of deeply-felt class hatred.

Everybody was shouting and booing. After the car had gone through the gate, I saw one woman turn away from the road, so angry her face was red and she had tears in her eyes.

Then we realised it wasn't all over—the car had stopped in front of the building, in view of the road. Immediately everybody rushed along the fence and stood there shouting and booing until the last member of Thatcher's party had disappeared into the building.

It is quite clear from this and other demonstrations that the Tories, and Thatcher in particular, have stirred up a mood of class hatred not

seen in Britain since the Thirties.

By P Walden
(Gateshead West LPYS)

New LPYS leaflets and posters—out now!

LPYS A5 leaflet—'Jobs not Detention Centres.'

Poster in two sizes, A3 and A2—price, 5p and 10p.

Available from LPYS, 150 Walworth Rd, London SE17.

LEFT and RIGHT

A strange case of infiltration surfaced last week. Applauding Mrs Thatcher's hard-line speech to the Tory Women's Conference were ten Chinese 'Communist' students. They were paying a return visit following a delegation to China from the Federation of Conservative Students. Presumably it's a case of all those against the Soviet Union, hands up. Thatcher and Western imperialism are quite happy to play the Chinese nationalist bureaucracy against their fellow Stalinists, the Russians. But how do the Chinese Stalinists justify such a policy? Last week in a visit to Japan, China's leader, Chairman Hua Guofeng, called for the Japanese military to re-arm US imperialism announced it was sending military hardware to China, although for the time being weapons were excluded. Perhaps someone can inform us how this squares with a socialist internationalist approach.

The Tories have done their best to nobble this year's Olympics, but Thatcher's favourite sport—hypocrisy—is still alive and kicking. 'Keep politics out of sport' used to be a favourite Tory slogan. It seems to have been dropped, for the time being, as athletes are pressed to "sacrifice professionalism for a greater cause."

The 'Sunday Times' has joined in the fray along with many other Fleet Street Tory propaganda sheets, advising British competitors that they "should not go." When asked if the paper would cover the games, however, the Editor, without batting an eyelid, tells us that there will indeed be 'Sunday Times' reporters in Moscow, "in line with our professional duty."

In the oppressive military dictatorship of Haiti in the Caribbean last week, the dictator Baby Doc got married. Dressed in a featherweight mohair suit, and wearing a gold and ruby crusted wrist watch, he joined his bride. She wore a Givenchy outfit straight from Paris, and on her finger shone her wedding present, a giant diamond. They arrived for the wedding in a Lincoln Continental, followed by Baby Doc's mother, travelling in a Rolls Royce. The whole entourage of limousines was guarded by a convoy of armoured vehicles. After the wedding ceremony the party began, and the food had to be brought to the joyous occasion by four 40 ton trucks, with another truck bringing up the rear, stacked full of champagne. The wedding cake itself was six foot high, and all the tables were decked with jewelled boxes, harps and doves. But there was no celebration for the working masses of Haiti. Officially now the poorest nation in the western world, wages are an average of 85p a day. And anyone caught trying to organise resistance against the regime is either murdered by the 'Tontons Macoute' assassin squad or put in what Amnesty International describes as the "most inhumane prisons in the world" to die. This vile and decrepit regime is so horrendous that even American imperialism, which had backed 'Baby' until 1977, has dropped any assistance, no doubt to save itself from international embarrassment.

A councillor in Windsor has had the cheek to suggest that the dungeons at Windsor Castle should be used as a nuclear fall-out shelter for the locals. For one thing it's probably a branch of the Official Secrets Act to reveal that Her Majesty has her own personal dungeons, let alone inviting the lower orders to invade them.

Luckily this scoundrel has been soundly chastened for his caddish behaviour in 'dragging the Queen into politics.'

Quite right too. Keep the Queen out of politics. Abolish the monarchy.

The 'Morning Star' [12 May] carried a report on an international meeting of trade unionists from the Peugeot-Citroen-Talbot multinational car company. The trade union delegates from Spain, France, Portugal, Scotland and England were discussing ways to defend trade unionism and fight threatened closures, pointing out that capitalism in western Europe is able to produce two million more cars than it can sell. Needless to say, however, the whole article in the 'Morning Star', mouthpiece of the Communist Party of Great Britain, did not once mention the CPs demand for import controls.

BLAIR PEACH:

'MISADVENTURE?'

The predictable verdict of 'death by misadventure' at the Blair Peach inquest has provoked enormous outrage within the labour movement.

Even the capitalist press—who seem more concerned with 'who shot JR' than the real-life killing of Blair Peach—have criticised the verdict, such as the blatancy of the cover up.

As even the 'Daily Mirror' (May 28) commented, "Though the verdict [of the jury] was unanimous, it's barely believable."

Looking at the details of the inquest it can be seen that the capitalist state machine had no intention of exposing the killers of Blair Peach.

It took over a year before the inquest was held. Fifteen witnesses told the court they saw policemen hitting people—most witnesses said over the head—during the riot; some actually saw Blair Peach struck.

Yet of the 25 SPG officers who were involved in the incident in Beechcroft Avenue, Southall, on that day, where Blair Peach was killed, only one of them admitted in court hitting a demonstrator. And as 'The Times' pointed out, "almost all gave an account of their movements that had them away from the corner where Blair Peach was alleged to have been struck."

There were many questions left unanswered regarding the actions of the SPG on that day and after. Why did SPG officer PC Richardson grow a beard before he went on an identification parade where witnesses were trying to identify the policemen they saw strike Blair Peach? And why was Richardson suspended from the SPG after the events at Southall?

During the inquest the court was told Inspector Murray and PCs Freestone and Bint were also transferred out of the SPG, but the jury were not told why.

What did come out of the inquest were details of the virtual armoury of coshes, whips and so on found in lockers of SPG men, and the admission that they were used on 'certain' operations. The police said they did not use these at Southall yet the sergeant in charge did not record in the official log that truncheons were drawn during the day, as is normal police practice.

Much was made of Blair Peach's thin skull—but as 'The Times' said, the blow "came with such force that it would have caused serious injury and been potentially fatal to a normal skull."

More importantly, a report put together by 30 officers of Scotland Yard's Investigation Bureau and which took up 31,000 man hours to produce, was not presented to the inquest, and police officers refused to comment on it.

Throughout the trial much was made of the 'riot' situation the police faced. Yet not one witness saw Blair Peach throw any missiles—so in the summing-up the coroner made the incredible suggestion that: "Any citizen had a duty to suppress or prevent a riot." ('Times' May 28).

So it was in this air of secrecy and confusion that the jury retired to consider the verdict. As the 'Mirror' commented, "The fact that the jury spent nearly five hours before reaching it and then added a rider calling for more control over the Special Patrol Group shows that some, at least, of them may have had some doubts."

A verdict of death by misadventure was returned. In ordinary inquests 'misadventure' is applied to cases such as a mountain climber being killed while scaling a mountain, or someone taking a short cut across a railway and being hit by a train—it is

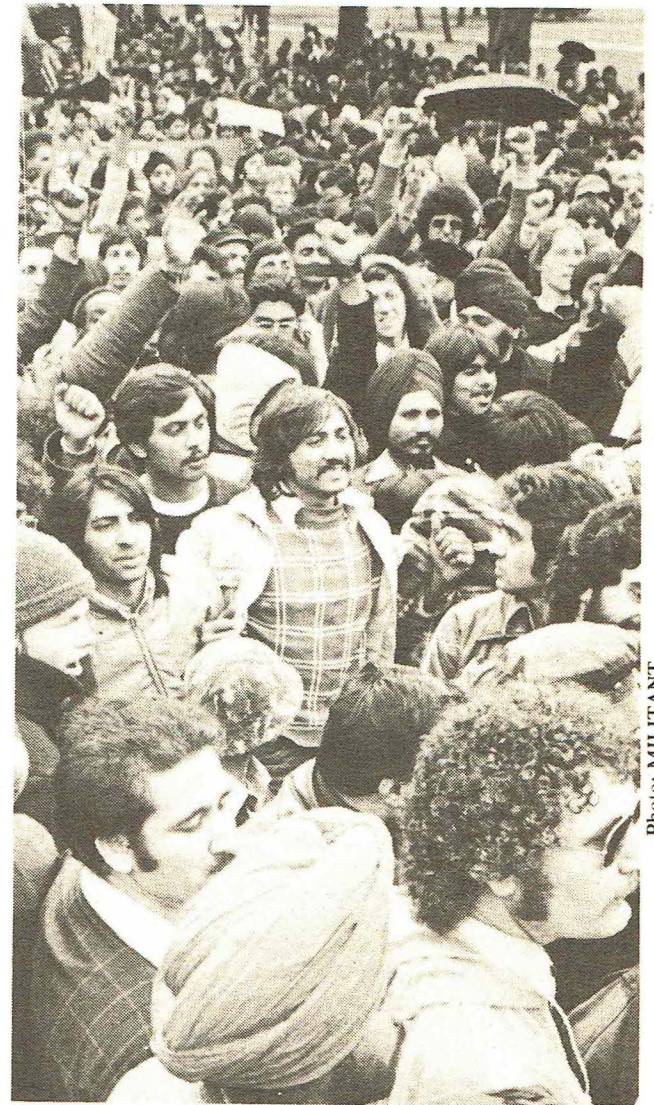


Photo: MILITANT

The people of Southall demonstrate after the death of Blair Peach last year an accident but could have been avoided had the deceased not taken part in the 'adventure'.

The inference of this is that anyone who demonstrates and comes into contact with the SPG and is killed—well, it's their own fault for being there!

Such has been the outrage at the activities of the SPG that, for the moment at least, their reins have been drawn in. But the SPG has been developed by the ruling class as an autonomous 'shock force' to be used against the labour movement. As the confrontations between the workers and the bosses hot up, so the SPG have been seen breaking up picket lines, such as at Grunwick.

At Southall, according to eye-witness accounts, it appears that their orders were not to preserve 'law and order'—rather, they went on the offensive, with such force that Blair Peach was killed and many were injured. The labour movement must demand that the SPG be disbanded.

And though a year has passed since Blair Peach was killed, given the inquest verdict, it is now even more essential for the labour movement to set up its own enquiry, not only into the events at Southall, but also the groups such as the SPG which are being developed by the ruling class to be used against the labour movement.

Operation Fire

'Operation Fire' is a report published by the Welsh Campaign for Civil and Political Liberties.

This is a body set up after the arrest eight weeks ago of more than 50 people with regard to the spate of arson attacks on holiday homes in Wales (see 'Militant' 494).

The report is based on replies to a questionnaire drawn up by Mr Philip Thomas, a senior law lecturer at University College, Cardiff, and Miss Penny Smith, a post-graduate law student at the same college. The questionnaire was sent to 52 people, of whom 43 completed it. None of these 52 were subsequently charged.

The report says that the police investigating the arson attacks infringed civil rights, undertook political intelligence gathering and ignored judges' rules. The arrests took place between 4.30 am and

6.00 am on Sunday 30 March and involved around 300 police officers from all four Welsh forces.

Among those arrested were a publisher, a bookshop owner, teachers, a quarryman, a farm worker and a former policeman who described his experience in custody. "At one stage I was grabbed by the shirt and shaken, struck under the chin by the use of the forearm. As an ex-policeman I have been shocked by the whole procedure."

Another man who was detained for more than three days reported, "A senior officer stood in front of me holding a rolled newspaper containing a report on one aspect of the campaign, he shouted, 'You're a terrorist,' and struck me across the face with the paper. I was struck by him afterwards, not very badly, twice on my body."

Another person who was arrested said, "A senior

officer told me I had no rights and that to them I was guilty until proved innocent."

The arrests were accompanied by the seizure of personal property including files, badges, a typewriter, large quantities of shoes, a list of Plaid Cymru members and contraceptives (which can be used in bomb-making—Ed.).

Police withheld information from the next-of-kin, and also refused to allow a number of suspects the right to telephone a solicitor. Police first asked questions about criminal damage, then went on to ask the suspects about their political activities and contacts.

One man detained for 39 hours said, "I was threatened very offensively by a senior officer, he said I would be gaoled for life and I would have 'the most unforgettable interrogation of my life'."

The report concludes that 'Operation Fire', the code name given to the arrests, was

a national exercise on a specific issue over a short period and should not be treated as an isolated event.

The events mapped out in the report show how acts of individual terrorism—in this case burning down second homes—can only strengthen the hand of reaction and give the state an excuse to implement repressive measures, which can then be used against the labour movement.

Copies of the report 'Operation Fire' are available from Welsh Council for Civil and Political Liberties, 108 Bookshop, Salsbury Road, Cathays, Cardiff, price £1.50.

**By Anthony
Tynan**

(South Wales NUM and Rhondda LPYS)

IAN BURGE-

A PERSONAL APPRECIATION

I first met Ian in the corridors of Bethnal Green Hospital in 1977 when the Campaign to save the Hospital was just getting under way.

We had a fairly mild exchange of views on the role of a shop steward which nevertheless left me strangely smarting and with a renewed conviction that I had never liked men with red hair! However, he had made me think, and a few minutes later I turned round and followed him into a meeting which I had been intent on avoiding.

This encounter started an association which has only ended in the bitter anguish I feel at his death.

But the incident was typical of him. If you only opened your mind to Ian he continually made you think and no matter how many people he was involved with, it always seemed like a one-to-one encounter of your mind with his. While he would accept that you had been brainwashed by the system we live under, he constantly made you question that system, observe its contradictions and inspired you with the will to fight for a socialist future.

Ian had an infinite patience and understanding with the rank-and-file worker, but was completely implacable in opposition to those he considered politically mature but who were attempting to take the movement in the wrong direction.

In the early days it was Ian's personal commitment to 'Militant' that won my admiration and respect. No effort was too great to make for the paper and nothing was too good for it. What was the magic formula he found in it? If I read it too, would I get to think as he did?

As I drew nearer and nearer to making my own personal commitment I agreed to look over one of his articles on the Campaign for Bethnal Green Hospital and to give him my comments. I did this and decided to type the amended article in draft form on a superb electric typewriter. Comrades, you should have seen the look of joy on his face. Obviously I was coming nearer to his beliefs, I had 'improved' his article, and 'Militant' was going to get beautifully typed copy!

No one would pay more attention to copy than Ian Burge. Each word, each sentence was considered—once, twice, three times, then torn up to be started at all over again. If it was an article for 'Militant' it would then be sent in, but if it was to be considered by a trade union committee it was something else again.

By Myrna Shaw

Myrna, who modestly told us: "I was a political 'nothing' in all respects when I first met Ian," is now Secretary Keep BGH Hospital Campaign, Secretary JSSC at BGH, EC member City & East London Area Health branch NALGO, Metropolitan District Council NALGO, Minute Secretary and Co-ordinator Tower Hamlets Health District Branch NUPE, Asst. Sec, Tower Hamlets Health District JSSC.

It would have been too easy sometimes to get blind acceptance of a letter or article for publication. But that wasn't Ian's way. Everyone had to read, accept or argue the points put forward. Laziness was not allowed. You had to know what you were doing or what was the point of doing it? This was something that Management would not believe or accept, but that was because they never knew Ian as we did.

Ian's range of activities was enormous. Always with a bundle of 'Militants' under his arm, he organised and attended meeting after meeting. Secretary of his own branch of ASTMS, he was also a Divisional Council member. He was on the Tower Hamlets Trades Council and the Health Sub-Committees. As Secretary of the London Hospital Joint Shop Stewards' Committee, his greatest achievement perhaps was the formation of the Tower Hamlets Health District Joint Shop Stewards' Committee, holding together by sheer hard work and dogged determination nine separate unions in six different hospitals.

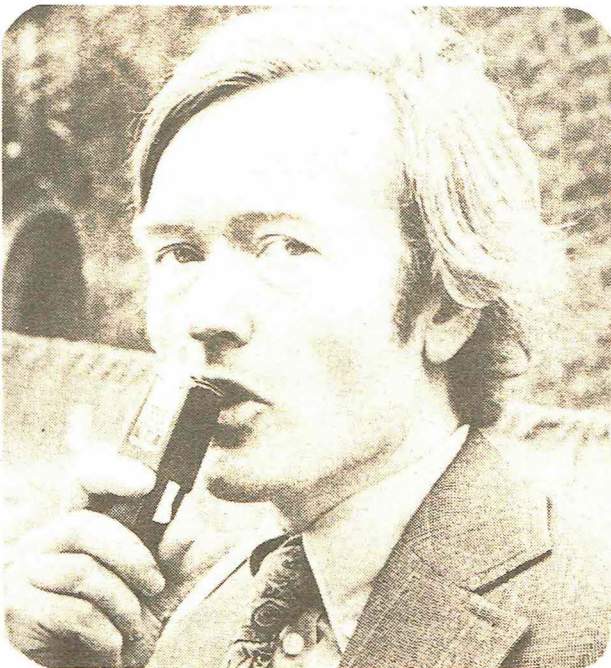
Such was the stature achieved by the DJSSC that he had the unprecedented distinction as a trade unionist of being allowed to speak from the Public Gallery to the City & East London Area Health Authority, when they suspended standing orders to allow him to do so. The result was that the Authority, although heavily weighted by "Regional Appointees", forced the

Tower Hamlets Health District Management Team into direct negotiations with the DJSSC on the question of Bethnal Green Hospital. The quality of our literature since then inspired a Labour Councillor on the AHA to ask why they never consulted, unless forced to, "the people that really matter."

A pattern was thus established at the time of the Campaign that we kept up for three years. With some personal inconvenience Ian came over almost every lunch-time usually with other health service workers. A lunch-fund was established that even after many deductions for paper, postage, etc, now stands at over £50. We would have a bite to eat, discuss the political news of the day and the health news in the hospitals.

How could we strengthen trade union membership? How could we best fight the cuts? Other shop stewards would come for a quick chat, members of staff would look in having adopted a catch-phrase "where's my shop-steward, I'm in trouble," while many a hospital doctor would audibly groan at the sight of our tiny, packed, kitchen—"plotting again!"

If Ian didn't come over on any particular day he would telephone instead to ask if everything was all right, what's been happening to you, did you manage to read this or do that? In times of crisis there was a virtual hot-line between BGH and The London, and many a press-cutting went backwards



London Hospital workers on a demonstration against the closure of Bethnal Green Hospital

or forwards on the hospital van to be filed for future reference, always with an article for 'Militant' in mind.

Now he has gone, unfairly, unjustly, with so much he would have been able to contribute. In odd moments of dejection he questioned the effectiveness of his work. If only we told people while they were alive how much we loved them and valued what they were doing! If only he could see mature men and women, people who sometimes thought they disagreed

with him, crying their eyes out at his death.

Good-tempered usually, aggravating occasionally, obstinate to the point of pig-headedness if a principle was at stake. Ian was also a jazz musician, bacon-buttoy lover, cheese-on-toast expert, tutor, comrade, friend.

What more can you say? What more can you do? Plenty! OK so he has had to clock out early and the Foreman is prowling around. Traditionally, we always close ranks, dodge around a bit

and pretend our mate has just popped out for a second and we cover the work that needs to be done.

Always finish on a positive note, Ian would say. It's very hard, because it breaks my heart that he will not see socialism. But for us, whether or not we all realised it, Ian was our glimpse of that new society. In his own way he personified the new man,—caring, loving, generous to a fault with his time.

It's up to us now—organise!

Criminal justice

By Larry Flanagan

(Pollock LPYS)

Last week myself and two other comrades were given a graphic example of the type of police harassment that will mushroom if the Criminal Justice [Scotland] Bill comes into force.

The Bill will give the Police the right to detain suspects for up to six hours and unlimited powers of search. Some officers, though, seem to think they have the second power already.

We had gone along to an open-air concert in Glasgow's Kelvingrove park. Between the groups we manned the gates, selling 'Militant' and picking up names for the LPYS. At the gate we witnessed two incidents concerning the police.

The first was when two uniformed constables emerged gripping a young boy who couldn't have been more than twelve years old. They stood him against a wall and searched him, attempting to be inconspicuous. Nothing appeared to be found.

Obviously embarrassed by the constant attention of ourselves, one of the officers

came over and remarked, "Here's somebody that believes in free enterprise. He's been helping himself."

Just like the Tories I thought, though there is more evidence against the Tories. Anyway the boy was taken away in a police car, flanked on either side by a police officer with two more riding in front. Obviously a dangerous criminal!

What struck me about the incident was not that the police were being particularly repressive, but the cool manner of the young boy. Despite the fact that the two policemen were about twice his size he was unruffled and had obviously been through the routine before.

Being "captured" by the police is an everyday hazard for some kids from deprived backgrounds and run-down housing schemes.

The second incident was a more calculated example of police repression. Two youths had been picked out from the crowd and taken to the front gate.

There they were given a thorough search by the two plain clothes officers that had been mingling amongst the audience. Nothing was found.

An attempt at intimidation was made by taking the youths' names.

For nearly twenty minutes the older officer questioned the two young men. If the Bill is passed young people in this situation can expect a six hour detention because of a police officer's unfounded suspicion, unless you accept that skin colour or the style of clothes you wear is sufficient ground for police harassment!

The younger officer took up a pose somewhere between Detective Hackett and a youthful Kojak. His icy stares didn't hold out much sympathy for the labour movement.

No semi-jocular remarks from this one! No doubt we'll be seeing his face, mingling with the crowds, on the demonstrations and picket lines that lie ahead.

The 'Law and Order' cry of the Tories is a mask for introducing repressive legislation that will be used against the activists of the labour movement. The surest way of cutting crime is by creating social conditions that undercut the breeding ground of want and despair that characterises our society at present.

ALAN SMITH - NINETEEN BITTER WEEKS

Just twenty one weeks ago, we were planning our summer holidays. We were also planning to have an extension on our house this summer.

But two weeks later all these dreams were shattered. The two shop stewards at Alan Smith's where my husband Roy works were given warnings. Roy, who was the convenor there didn't get one.

By
Mrs J Bennett

He has worked hard for the union, and for the last three years has worked hard for the firm. He has never been late, and even though he has had health, he has only missed four days through sickness.

The lads at Smith's joined the union because they were treated like muck over the years. For example, before Christmas, Alan Smith told all the workforce that if they worked hard and got through all the backlog of work, he would pay them a good bonus. They did all this, but Smith went back on his promise by not paying the full amount.

When the warnings came, the men met, and came out on strike. They were backed by the District Committee, and the EC made the strike official on January 17th.

The men first went back to work on March 17th after 8 weeks on strike, after talks with management as the EC told them they had to.

On that very same day my husband was told there were no van-driving duties for him because of the strike. This was not true. Members of the DC had seen the van, driven by a scab, going to firms in Nottingham.

Roy told the production manager if they went through proper agreements he would do another job which he was told to do. The production manager then told him he was not here to negotiate, he was there to lay down discipline.

When Roy and the other men went to work the next day 18th March, he was told he was being sacked. Roy phoned the AUEW district secretary and he was told to

bring the members out.

The district committee and the EC backed this strike for the second time. These lads at Alan Smith have worked hard in this strike raising money, and got a lot of support all over the country.

Unfortunately in our own town the only real support came from Raleigh. Nottingham is a big industrial city, but I think the only time this comes home to other firms is if it happens to their own work place.

There have been more talks

between the union and Smith's, but it has been made plain that no way will they have Roy Bennett back—even if he wins a tribunal, they say they will not have him back.

Roy has told the lads he will step down and let them all go back to work because they are not getting any money, only £9 a week union money and after 18 weeks going on 19 they are in a mess with all bills coming in.

If they go back all together with the union intact, it will be a victory on its own

because Smith's were out to smash the union.

In fact the the only thing this bitter strike has done is make the lads stronger in the union.

You will have to excuse the way this letter is written. I have never written to a paper before. I am doing this because the strike has really shaken me as a wife and mother of two young children.



On the picket line at Alan Smith, Nottingham

Photo: MILITANT

FOOTBALL: WHO'S IN CHARGE?

During LPYS Conference the only debate reported in detail was the decision to support nationalising football. Immediately, the national press tried to convince everyone what a stupid idea it is.

Last week's decision of Brighton and Hove Albion Football Club [among many others] to raise the prices yet again just underlines the relevance of the idea.

This is the fifth time in six years the prices have gone up. In 1974 it cost 50p to watch the game from the terraces, next season it will cost £2.

The prime cause of this is the big business-dominated setup of the game. Since big business started pouring large sums of money into football, success has, in a way, become important by virtue of the large prize money.

This has also had the effect of encouraging boring defensive play, which drives crowds away.

Because of the money now involved in the game it becomes more vital to get the best players and sensing that, the transfer fees can be pushed up to the present ludicrous levels.

To chase success means acquiring more money to get decent players, which means pushing the gate prices up, which tends to drive crowds away which causes more money problems. It's a vicious circle in which the spectators are the real losers.

First divisions clubs may be able to get away with it, but if you support a team like Rochdale or Crewe, it's a different proposition. It isn't going to be easy to persuade people to pay £1.50 or £2 to watch struggling fourth division teams.

Lack of success can lead to a fall-off in commercial sponsorships which makes the threat of bankruptcy more real than it is now. Leading to the loss of a service to the people of that area.

In the present situation, all except about ten clubs make a loss, and the vast majority of clubs have little or no chance of any real success because of the prices charged for good players.

It's about time that football clubs weren't mortgaged to the hilt to local industry, with Boards of Directors running clubs like businesses, to the detriment of the fans.

The only real alternative is for the players, supporters and workers at the clubs to democratically run the clubs, with the money provided by the government to enable cheap admission prices, ground improvements and the means to buy reasonable players at reasonable prices.

Also, bureaucratic organisations such as the FA and the Football League to be replaced by a democratically elected council of players, supporters, and workers in the industry from among the clubs. On this basis football could be transformed into an enjoyable game again and a cheap pleasant way to spend a Saturday afternoon.

By Clive Walder
(Hove LPYS)

Grand opening '79 Quiet closing '80

"I congratulate everyone associated with this project, and have great pleasure in declaring it open.... Your success will mean extra jobs, more exports, extra profit."

By a
Triplex worker

none.... This remarkable Triplex plant demonstrates that we have a bright industrial future too."

Amid a fanfare of publicity, that's how Jim Callaghan opened the new Ten Twenty factory, at the Triplex glass site at Kings Norton, Birmingham.

It was just a few months before he was voted out as Prime Minister. But it was not only the timing of the election that he got wrong, as from July 1st that factory will be put into mothballs, stop production, and from the site as a whole 210 jobs will go.

Pilkington's, owners of Triplex, had given Jim Callaghan the line—"this new Ten Twenty plant is yet another example that the best of British industry is second to

Unfortunately no-one told Sir Alastair Pilkington that under capitalism the best of British industry is sinking. The Ten Twenty described no doubt with justification by Sir Alastair as "a windscreen ahead of the world," was fitted for example to the Rover 3500, European car of the year not long ago.

But now Rover production is being cut back, and the workers there have been laid off, for weeks at a time.

When there is a major recession in the car industry, no-one is interested in special new windcreens. Every time Leyland suffers a hiccup,

all the components firms get indigestion too.

Of course we are not helped by the hot air coming from the present government. They have fully backed up Sir Micheal Edwardes in his anti-union threats to close Leyland down.

If it did go there would be hundreds more from Triplex looking for work. I wonder if Pilkington's, instead of 're-viewing' their investment at Kings Norton, have looked at the returns they are likely to reap from the thousands of pounds they gave to help Thatcher and Joseph get elected.

The truth is that the Ten Twenty fiasco can only be put down to management error. The screen itself is definitely revolutionary and undoubtedly the safest yet made, costing £20 million and ten years effort to produce it.

But its price is three times as much as for a conventional screen. And no car manufac-

turer in the present economic climate is going to pay out extra just for safer components (although that says something else about the system we live under—people's lives are far less important than profit).

If Sir Alastair Pilkington had only studied the economic predictions of 'Militant', or its analysis of the downturn in the car industry, he could have been spared the indignity of the grand opening and subsequent closing of the Ten Twenty factory gates.

He must feel especially guilty for much of the money was provided by the Labour government. After all that was why Jim Callaghan was there.

But who has to foot the bill for this management error? Not Sir Alastair, but the 85 workers in the new factory, the 70 out of research and development and 65 involved in support functions, who are being made redundant.

But the axe may not stop here. What Triplex intend to design next with just 40 left in the R & D department is unclear.

But management has been clear enough in its intention to review all the Kings Norton site, later this year. They have already been asking for voluntary redundancies on the aircraft screen side, which so far has been unaffected.

Triplex workers have not been renowned for militancy in the past. Jim Callaghan complimented us on "a long, strike free history."

Well it doesn't seem to have done us much good. We have to fight against redundancies, otherwise the whole factory might disappear beneath our feet.

We have to fight to save every job, whether workers are frightened into leaving voluntarily or forcibly made redundant. But how can we have any confidence for the future when we are at the mercy of a management like this?

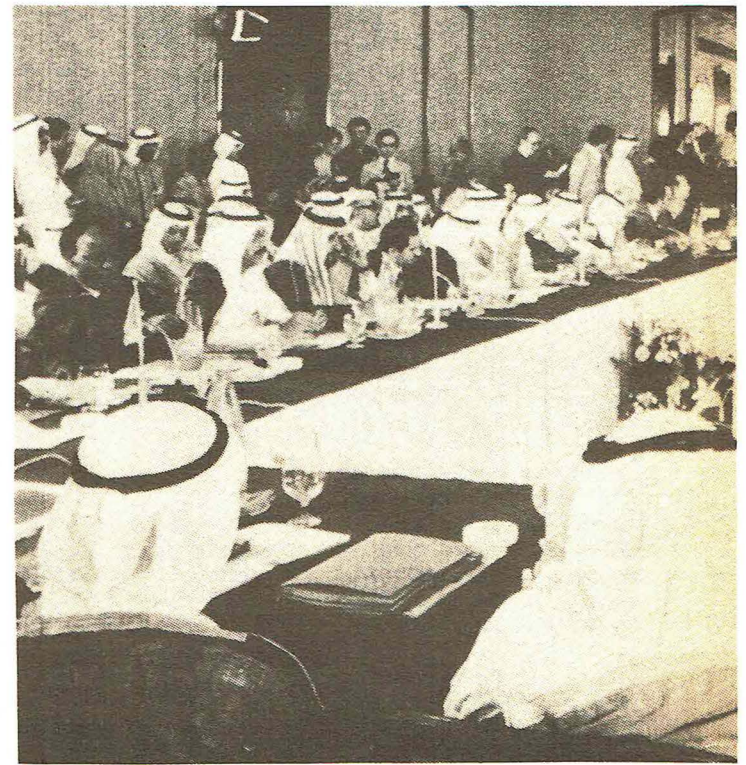
Many of the car and aircraft firms we supply are already nationalised. Triplex, and the rest of Pilkingtons, in public hands, under the control and management of the trade unions, could certainly not be more chaotic than the set up there now.

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OIL CRISIS

The energy crisis It is a problem



The energy crisis, and especially the oil crisis, has invaded all aspects of life. Politics, economics and social questions both nationally and internationally are interlinked with the issue of oil.

By midsummer last year the economies of the main capitalist states were moving towards recession, and one of the factors that has assured the moves in that direction was the rise in oil prices from an average of \$14 a barrel to about \$30 a barrel last year. The availability and the price of crude oil are now significant factors in the economic forecasting of the OECD countries.

The American economy, while still the dominant capitalist economy, is itself now highly dependent on their world oil market. Internal oil production accounts for more than half the demand, but even with the development of the Alaskan fields, imports are now a crucial necessity. Whereas many capitalist countries tried to restrict oil imports after 1973, imports to the USA increased by over a third as the home production dwindled.

What has made matters worse has been the consistent failure to cut back on the profligacy of the econ-

By
**John
Pickard**

omy. Per head of population, the USA consumes 85% more oil than Japan and Germany and 100% more than Britain, so that nearly 40% of world oil (excluding Eastern Europe and China) is consumed there. American automobiles alone account for about 8% of the world's oil production.

The massive oil bill of the USA accounts for the huge balance of payments deficits that have accumulated over the years, weakening the dollar and undermining the world monetary system. The main capitalist states have all put pressure on the USA to curb its oil imports in order to reduce the demand and the price, but also to prevent the further erosion of the value of the dollar.

All the capitalist governments and the oil-producing states are holders of billions of dollars. By the end of this year, for example, Saudi

Arabia will have accumulated a surplus of \$300 billion, most of which will be held in dollars. Each year there is a decline in the value of the dollar, these massive reserves are also devalued. It was estimated that in 1978 the value of Saudi Arabia's reserves fell because the increased revenue did not match the devaluation of the dollar that had taken place.

The surpluses accumulated by the oil producers, especially those denominated in dollars ('petrodollars'), are today the biggest single headache for the capitalist banks. Holders of petrodollars have secretly been selling off the US currency in favour of gold as a hedge against the devaluation of the dollar, but the irony is that they cannot off-load dollars too rapidly for fear of creating an even more rapid collapse of the dollar, undermining their still substantial dollar reserves.

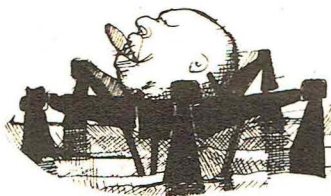
At the turn of the year, the American government itself aggravated the position by 'politicising' the dollar over the Iranian hostages crisis. When the White House announced the freezing of all Iran's dollar holdings in the USA, every other dollar-holder must have wondered what their reserves were now worth.

If the Iranian deposits were frozen so easily, why not theirs as well? What economic and political muscle could the oil-producing states wield if their wealth could be 'frozen' at the drop of a hat? Not surprisingly, the American decision triggered off a mad rush away from the dollar and into gold and the price of gold rocketed.

On the American domestic front the oil crisis has created dilemmas for Carter. The government has removed price controls so that by 1981 the American consumers will be paying the world price for their oil, instead of the subsidised price. At the same time a new tax has been introduced on petroleum products. These measures will have the effect of reducing consumption, but they will

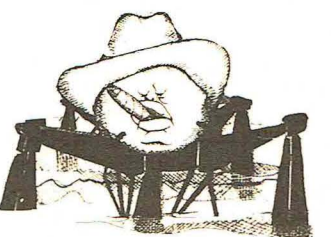
add enormously to the inflation that is already reaching record levels.

Thus, while making attempts to cut back on their use of oil, the Carter administration is stoking up the fires of the class struggle. The workers are being made to bear the brunt of the burden and they will give their answer, through their trade union battles, in due course.



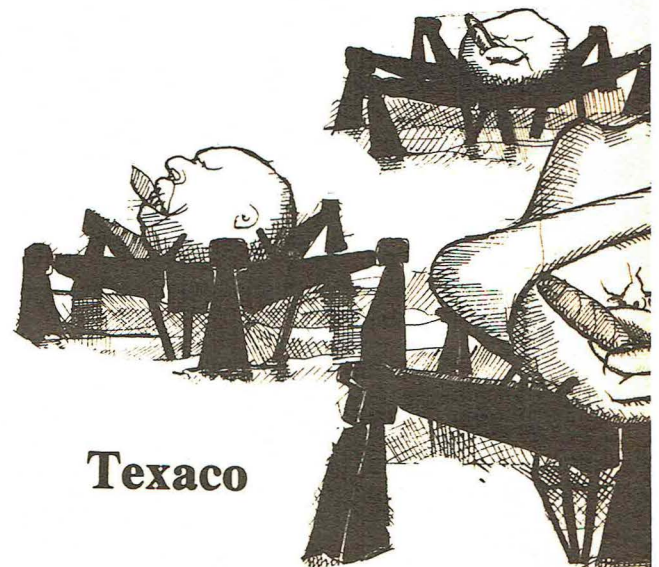
Esso

Under the pressure of the trade unions and the massive popular distrust of the oil companies, Carter has been forced to introduce a special tax on the 'windfall' profits of the oil companies. Quite apart from the anticipated price increases, those that have already taken place have added enormously to the problems faced by the big car manufacturers: traditionally makers of big, high-consumption vehicles, they are now being seriously undermined by the importation of smaller cars. This factor has further exacerbated the recession in the USA industry.



Gulf

To one degree or another, all the capitalist states are suffering the same economic and social problems as the USA in regard to the oil crisis. All the main capitalist states pledged themselves at last year's Tokyo summit to



Texaco

restrict oil consumption to present levels up to 1985—a promise that already seems to be broken or at the very least leaky. All these countries are now trying desperately to move towards nuclear power, and already this source accounts for a sizeable proportion of energy supplies in Europe.

As it appears to workers, the energy crisis has been more than a set of economic data. The price rises of crude oil on the world market have all found their way eventually onto the shoulders of the working class. These price rises and others are threatening the whole basis of the increase in living standards that took place throughout the 1950s and the 1960s.

Inflation, as much as unemployment and recession, has brought economic and social dislocation in the last decade, and the capitalists themselves recognise that revolutionary explosions are being stored up by these contradictions.

In the under-developed world the economic burdens will be even greater. Those third world countries that do not have an oil or natural gas industry of their own have been forced to shoulder massive debts. Their total debts now exceed \$300 billion. In some cases, the poorest countries are borrowing money only in order to pay off the interest on previous debts. The oil crisis will worsen the

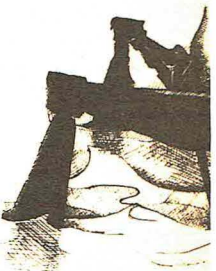
already gigantic economic and social problems in the third world—further pushing them towards social instability and revolution.

The balance of forces between the imperialist states on the one hand, and the oil-producing states, on the other hand, has been subject to dramatic shifts over the last few years.

The sudden shortfall in oil production a year ago because of the Iranian revolution gave impetus to the price rises. Oil exports from Iran fell by about 2½ million barrels a day. But the revolution itself came as a great shock to the other oil states and to imperialism. Many of the Middle East states are now desperately worried about the threat of the contagion of revolution.

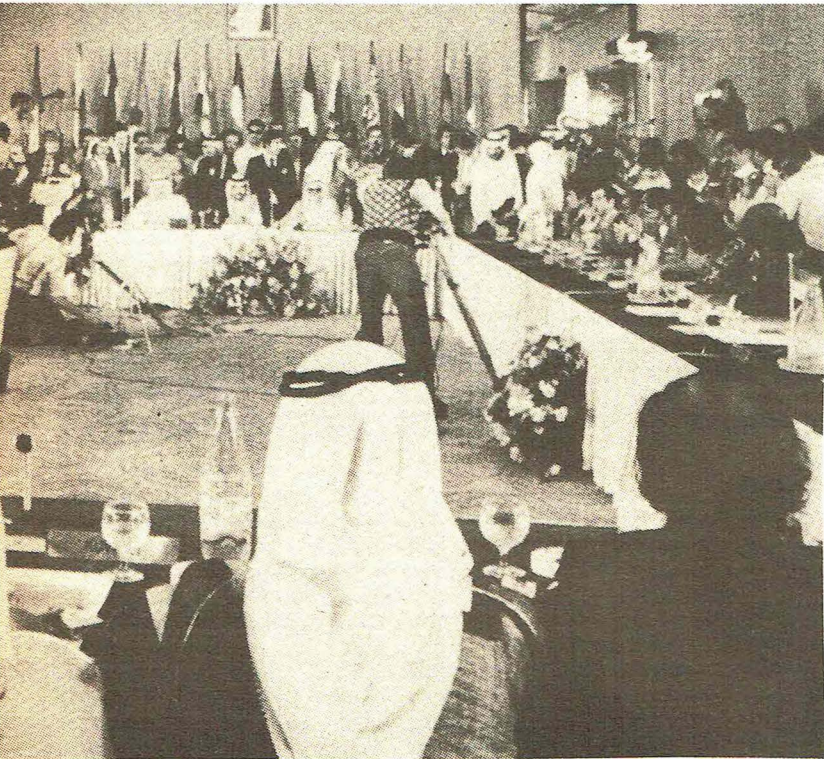
After Iran, Saudi Arabia has been the mainstay of Western interests in the Middle East, and has always been the biggest oil producer in the region. The social

BP



sis is not a problem of resources, of capitalism

The first of two articles



The Pentagon is now in the process of creating a special strategic strike force for possible use in the area of the Persian Gulf

Photo: OPEC representatives in Abu Dhabi: the oil producers have pushed up prices to counteract inflation and the decline of the US dollar

Saudi Arabian official explained: "For us the choice is simple. Oil is an appreciating asset as long as it remains in the ground. By selling oil we are being asked to swap one asset for another. The asset we switch into has to be better than depreciating dollars."

Over the past decade, the oil issue has forced changes in the capitalist states' policies towards the Middle East. All of the EEC countries, as well as the USA, are edging towards recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, as part of the price that has to be paid for oil. Whereas in the past the USA was prepared to support Israel both economically and militarily, their strategists have now come to the conclusion that this policy is completely unviable if their own oil interests and general Middle East stability are to be protected.

The diplomatic wheel has turned through 180 degrees, lubricated, so to speak, by Arab oil. The strategists of imperialism are nevertheless keeping all their options open. The Pentagon is now in the process of creating a special strategic strike force for use in the area of the Persian Gulf. Contingency plans have already been devised for the occupation of the important oil-producing parts of the Gulf (incidentally, using Egypt rather than Israel as the staging post).

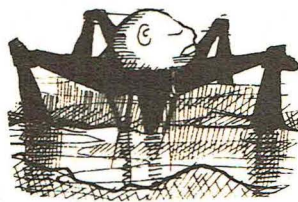
Military intervention in the Gulf or elsewhere would be fraught with dangers for US imperialism. The engagement of US forces would soon provoke a counter-reaction at home, with a rapid radicalisation of the American workers, especially the youth, as during the Vietnam war.

But after a period when, as a result of the disastrous debacle in Vietnam, direct military intervention was ruled out (as in Angola, for instance), the strategists of US imperialism have now formulated a strategy of limited "police" actions in

vital areas like the Gulf.

The very fact that they are now training special task forces and have drawn up contingency plans for their use in Saudi Arabia, Iran, and elsewhere, indicates the desperate seriousness with which imperialism views the potential threats to America's vital oil (and other raw material) supplies.

The problems that have been created by the oil crisis and the changes that have been brought about are significant, but they are still minor in relation to what is looming ahead. Previous forecasts for OPEC production in this decade and the next were for levels between 40 and 45 million barrels a day (mbd). Looking into the middle of this decade, it seems unlikely that OPEC production will exceed 35mbd.



Shell

OPEC's maximum will probably be reached in the next 3 to 5 years and although there will be new oil production from Alaska, Mexico and the North Sea, these will help but not solve the problem. Eastern Europe was in the past self-sufficient in oil, because of Russian production, but now it seems likely that these economies will also be seeking oil on the world market.

Higher oil prices will make it an economic proposition to develop some alternative sources of oil, like oil shales and tar sands, but given the massive investments required even these are unlikely to make any fundamental difference in the short run. Finally, even allowing for

economic recession and the consequent reduction in energy demand (which itself, of course, creates political upheavals) it would seem almost certain that the 1980s and 1990s will see oil shortages and crises far greater than anything seen in the 1970s.

The questions of oil and energy supplies are closely related to other political questions—it would be nonsensical to suppose that all would be well up to the day or the week before the last drop of oil ran out! But what is true is that the energy question—by shortages, prices rises, monetary instability and perhaps even wars and revolution—will be ultimately bound up with the social upheavals of the next decades. The oil crisis is an important part, but only a part, of the general crisis of capitalism.

But the oil crisis cannot be considered as something beyond social control, like the weather. Neither can it be considered as a purely scientific or a technical matter. Science and technology are not 'neutral', they are founded in concrete social relations. Engels pointed out long ago that as long as art, science and government are the preserve of a minority in society, then they will always be used and abused in the interests of that minority.

The energy crisis in general cannot be considered except as a product of the chaos of capitalism. Just as capitalism is incapable of planning for employment, education, housing, health, food production or any other of the necessities of life, so in the same way the system has been incapable of planning its own energy supplies.

The production and consumption of oil has for decades been completely dominated by the big oil companies, especially the so-called 'Seven Sisters'—Exxon (Esso), Texaco, Socal (Chevron), Gulf, Mobil, BP and Shell. Every one of these is a gigantic company in its own right, with a turnover and

profits running to thousands of millions of dollars. The most recent recorded profits of Shell were a staggering £3,000 million, a world record for any company.

These companies have economic muscle greater than most of the member-states of the United Nations. It is a sobering thought to realise that three of these giants (Exxon, Socal and Mobil) as well as other smaller companies like Amoco and BP's US subsidiary, Sohio, all come from the splitting up of one company, the Rockefeller Standard Oil Company.

Willingly aided and abetted by the gunboats and the garrisons of their parent imperialist states, the oil corporations established complete domination over the oil of the capitalist world, from the process of production to refining and marketing of products. Even as recently as 1972, these seven companies had control over 70% of all production outside Eastern Europe and 77% of OPEC production.

Add the next two biggest companies, ENI (Italy) and CPF (France), and the control of oil by imperialism was complete. The various oil consortia that monopolised production in the Middle East states were all permutations of these big companies.

The oil companies have been able over the years to exploit their monopoly position to the detriment of both the producing countries and the workers who ultimately pay for the oil in the capitalist states. The basic price paid to the producing countries is a

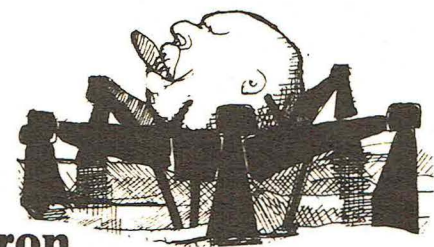
oil price increases in 1973-4, after the Middle East war, but in reality, the increases were only restoring the balance in prices.

Again, between 1974 and 1979 the rise in oil prices averaged only 16% whereas the price of consumer and capital goods rose by 50% (the oil producers claimed it was a lot higher than that).

The same governments and politicians who would try to shift the blame for inflation and the economic crisis onto the shoulders of those 'nasty Arabs' are themselves quite happy to fleece the workers who have to buy petrol. In Britain, excise duty and VAT are responsible for about 55 pence a gallon of the price of petrol, a bigger proportion than the oil-producing states are receiving.

It is not an exaggeration to say that the strength of the oil lobby has been able to buy and sell governments. The Mossadeq regime was overthrown in Iran in 1953 by the CIA precisely because of his threat to nationalise the Iranian Oil Company. Of the top seven companies in the USA, five are oil companies and the other two are car manufacturers. Oil companies form the biggest three European companies.

Given what seemed to be a limitless supply of oil in the early post-war years, the oil lobby has shaped the whole development of industry and technology in the advanced capitalist states. Petroleum-based capitalism raced ahead without a plan or so much as a thought for the future. Public transport was run



Chevron

fraction (even now) of the price paid by the consumer. The power of the companies put them in a position where they have had no check at all on pricing policies. One government can be played off against another so as to avoid paying taxes.

Recently, the US Department of Energy accused the oil companies of overcharging by hundreds of millions of dollars since 1973. The department has presented bills to Texaco for \$880m and to Gulf for \$58m, among others. Legal actions are outstanding against leading refiners in the USA for a total \$3.5bn.

Over many decades the oil monopolies assisted the super exploitation of the colonial and ex-colonial world by imperialism.

Throughout the decades after the war the terms of trade shifted greatly in favour of the advanced capitalist countries. The price of manufactured goods rose out of all proportion to the prices of raw materials, including oil. The spokesmen of capitalism screamed with outrage at the

down and replaced by private cars, coal mines closed as oil-fired power stations were built, railways were run down and axed as the motorways spread everywhere, even through city centres. Tonnage and mileage being equal, transportation by rail is only a sixth the cost of carriage by road, at least for distances over 50 miles. Yet what is potentially the cheapest method of transport has been completely undermined so that it only carries one eighth the tonnage of the road network.

The main cause of the energy crisis is not the problem of resources, it is the problem of capitalism. The inability of capitalism to plan its economy, the control of the oil industry by the big companies—these are the root causes of the energy crisis today.

**Part II
next week**



IRAN- REVOLUTION IN DEADLOCK



The first meeting of the newly elected Majlis, parliament, opened the way for a further round in the power struggle which has been unfolding in Iran.

The recent sharp manoeuvres and infighting around the Presidency and the Revolutionary Council have reflected the deadlock which the Iranian revolution is presently in.

The revolution's driving force was the working class which undermined the Shah's regime through a four month long General Strike and finally toppled it in the February 9-11 Tehran insurrection last year.

But there was no central workers' organisation and since the overthrow of the Shah, Khomeini and the other leading mullahs have been able to prevent the development of an independent workers' movement.

This strategy has been considerably aided by the Tudeh ('communist') Party's tail-ending of what they call the "Imam's line". While pressure from the working class has forced the Revolutionary Council to grant reforms and take some radical measures against capitalism it has not been able to put its own stamp on the revolution's development.

Although the working class has not, so far, consciously led the revolution, its immense strength and combativity stands in the way of any attempted imperialist intervention or restoration of the Shah's regime. This has produced a situation of deadlock over the revolution's future. Until this is broken in one way or another, personalities and clique struggles can have a great influence on events.

The continual twists and turns over what to do with the American hostages has reflected these struggles. There can be no doubt that the students seizure of the US Embassy and the hostages received enormous popular support. The Iranian masses saw this action as a blow against imperialism and retaliation for Carter allowing the ex-Shah to enter the USA.

Faced with massive popular backing for the Embassy occupation and a continual ebbing in their own support Khomeini and the Revolu-

tionary Council supported the students. This was in direct contrast to their hostility to the first attack on the US Embassy eight and a half months before. Khomeini has utilised the enormous wave of anger against the Carter government to re-build his position and get accepted a new constitution which granted the mullahs great powers.

However as the holding of the hostages has dragged on the fundamental social and political issues facing the Iranian people have begun to resurface and put pressure on Bani Sadr and the Revolutionary Council. This in turn has given a sharper twist to the conflict between Bani Sadr and the mullahs, especially Ayatollah Besheti, leader of the largest party in the Majlis, the Islamic Republican Party (IRP).

Bani Sadr accused Baheshti in mid-May of trying "to establish an obscurantist political dictatorship by waving the false banner of economic equalization." But neither can take the revolution forward. Beheshti is attempting to consolidate the mullahs' powers by using both religious and demagogic radical slogans to rally support. At the same time Bani Sadr has been pleading with the Western powers not to take tough measures against Iran.

Strong sanctions, Bani Sadr said, would not economically affect Iran but "politically it would be a catastrophe." It could even become the final straw leading to the complete overthrow of capitalism in Iran. It is for this reason that most Western powers are proceeding slowly on the hostages issue, not wishing to

provoke a new radicalisation inside Iran.

So far the Iranian revolution has failed to deliver the goods. The Iranian masses in supporting the call for an 'Islamic Republic' saw this as a blow against the rich and an opportunity to build a new society which would be run in the interests of all.

But this utopian dream has not materialised. Despite some of the reforms which have been carried out there is still raging inflation, mass unemployment and the existence of a ruling elite.

Even when reforms have been granted, they have often only been partial or quickly limited in scope. On 7 January the Revolutionary Council proclaimed that the working week "is the same for workers and office employees and is 40 hours."

But two days later the same Revolutionary Council said that "the 40-hour working week applies only to the workers and office employees covered by the National Employment Act and is nothing to do with the workers employed in the industrial sector...the working week for such workers is still 48 hours."

In order to control the discontent which had been openly expressed the mullahs unleashed in April a wave of attacks directed against the leftist groups, primarily the secular Fedayeen-E-Khalq and the radical Muslim Mujahideen-E-Kalq.

These attacks, made by street gangs or the so-called Hesbollahs (Party of God) followers organised by mullahs, were made against the leftist bases inside the universities and colleges which they had moved into after their city offices had been shut down last August.

Simultaneously a renewed offensive was launched against the Kurdish minority in North West Iran in an attempt to force back under central control the national minorities of Iran, which together make up half the population.

Khomeini and the mullahs are attempting to browbeat all opposition in submission to their rule. Khomeini stated that "If the Iranian nation stood against the West, we want our youth to stand against it. If our nation stands against Communism, we want all our university people to stand against it."

In other words, no opposition to the unelected Revolutionary Council!

The seeming success of Khomeini, Beheshti and the other priests in retaining their domineering position has only been based on desperate

With the revolution in impasse, personal and clique struggles become prominent. [Above] the new parliament. On left, Ayatollah Besheti, leader of Islamic Republican Party. On right, his main rival, President Bani-sadr.

manoeuvres of granting sudden substantial concessions, rallying religious fervour, vitriolic attacks against the ex-Shah and US imperialism and when all else fails physical repression against their opponents.

While this combination of tactics has worked during the last 15 months, the mullahs have not been able to resolve any of the fundamental social issues facing Iran.

This is why they are in continual danger of losing support. The sudden shifts in the masses' opinions, reflected in the seemingly contradictory election results, are indicators of a search for an answer to the fundamental problems which have still not been settled.

While it is likely that the priest-dominated Islamic Republican Party will control the Majlis and continue to hold the main reins of power for the immediate period, this situation cannot continue indefinitely. The mullahs have no clear policy whatso-

ever. Quotations from the Koran and reactionary prejudices cannot provide an answer to any of the social, economic or national problems facing Iran.

Bani Sadr will attempt to push the mullahs into a purely decorative role, either by leaning on the masses for support or by collaborating with the pro-capitalist elements which remain in the state machine and armed forces who want to halt the revolution before it goes any further.

But overshadowing the struggle for power in Iran between the different cliques is the critical situation the country is in. Despite its huge resources and development Iran has been affected by severe economic problems for years.

Indeed one of the catalysts of the revolution was the Shah's austerity policy of autumn 1976. Whichever clique comes to power will be faced with immense problems which clash with the aroused expectations of the masses.

It is inevitable that if Iran remains on a capitalist basis it will witness a sharpening class polarisation, which will eventually lead to the building of an independent workers' movement. Worsening national conflicts could also bring about the break-up of Iran.

But, on the other hand, given the chaotic situation which Iran is in, it is quite

conceivable that either the mullahs or Bani Sadr would be forced to lean on the masses and finally smash the landlordism and capitalism in Iran.

The regime which would emerge from such a process would not be a workers' democracy, but similar to the kind of regime which exists in Russia, China and Eastern Europe. A society which would place before the working class the task of carrying through a new, political revolution to remove the bureaucratic caste which would install itself at the head of such a deformed workers' state.

The crucial factor which has overshadowed the Iranian revolution has been the absence of a mass workers' party, armed with a Marxist programme, which could have prevented the revolution's leadership falling into the hands of mullahs, bourgeois and nationalist leaders.

Such a party, basing itself on Iran's 3.5 million manufacturing and construction workers, could already have led the revolution towards the overthrow of capitalism and the establishment of a democratic workers' republic. While such a party has not yet arisen in Iran the Iranian workers' own experiences are preparing the ground for such its growth in the future.

Japan — GOVERNMENT DEFEATED



Japanese workers demonstrate against the ruling party's corruption over Lockheed contracts

After a split within the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], a general election has been called in Japan for June 22nd. Unless the rival factions patch up their differences, this could result in the LDP having to go into coalition with small centre parties.

After over 30 years in power, the struggle between the rival LDP factions has intensified as recently the

By
Colin Barber

party's popularity has declined. Economic problems have hit Japan as elsewhere in the capitalist world, and many people have turned away from the corrupt LDP.

The election was called after a Socialist motion of censure was carried in the Diet (Parliament). The Soci-

alists' motion at first was condemning the high electricity prices. But then they attacked for corruption a prominent LDP member who was close to Prime Minister Okira's main financial backer. Rival factions in the LDP wanted to discredit their rivals within the party and abstained.

It was the first government defeat in a confidence vote for 27 years. Even the strongest capitalist societies it seems are now feeling the strain.

SCHOOLSTUDENT REVOLT SCARES S.AFRICAN REGIME

The killing last week by police of two young children has escalated the growing wave of protest by black and coloured school-students. The protest which began four months ago has grown so that now much of the country has been affected.

The government, until recently has not used all the vicious repression they normally do to crush opposition. This is not out of sympathy. They hoped the protests would die away. And they were scared of provoking another Soweto uprising.

The possibility of the struggle of the youth spreading to the workers is a terrifying prospect for the ruling class. On the one hand the government tried to hide the boycott, by telling the press not to give publicity to the struggle and by locking up pupils and their supporters. On the other hand the government vaguely promised that steps will be taken to improve conditions.

By
Linda Berger

The schools boycott has inspired the youth and the oppressed population as a whole. The government has struck back viciously where it could. Black youth in Bloemfontein protesting against racial discrimination in education were met by police and riot squads who opened fire. Two black youth died. 130 pupils were arrested when they marched to a police station to demand the release of 12 detained black pupils. Even 50 clergymen who demonstrated in support of the youth were arrested in Johannesburg.

The protest began on 12 February when 100 coloured pupils at a school in Cape Town decided to boycott classes in protest against their inferior education. This initiative set fire to all the grievances among coloured schoolchildren against, as they put it, "gutter education and miserable school conditions." Mass meetings were held all over the country calling for a mass boycott of classes. In a few weeks the number of protesting school youth rose from 100 to 130,000.

The decision to boycott

classes was not taken lightly. For more than a year the school students had complained through the official pipeline. But the authorities refused to listen and forced the youth to act.

None of the grievances that the African youth struggled against in 1976 have been removed. Now it is the coloured youth who have taken the initiative in the fight against the racist education system.

The struggle of the youth developed from demonstrations to protest meetings and mass boycotts of classes. Pupils, parents and a large number of teachers were firmly united. The demand for more government spending on coloured, Indian and African education developed into a demand for a universal education for all races, as a means to equal opportunities in a society.

Thousands of Indian and African school students joined the boycott. Pupils' and parents committees were set up, in Cape Town representing 61 schools and 60,000 pupils. They elected representatives to a national meeting that democratically co-ordinated the boycott. In Cape Town many pupils went to the railway stations to discuss their grievances with the workers and explain the boycott.



It is fear of another Soweto uprising [above] that worries the rulers of the apartheid society

The Minister of Coloured Relations Marais Steyn reacted arrogantly. He alleged that "political agitators" were inciting the schoolchildren for their own ends. He sent in the police to break up meetings with clubs and teargas. He threatened to close the schools if the pupils did not go back to school.

In May, the government closed the black university of Fort Hare in retaliation for a student boycott. In reply, the pupils resumed their mass boycott of classes

on 21 May.

The youth have once again been forced out onto the streets. They can have few illusions in the promises made by Prime Minister Botha which only expose the bankruptcy of the regime. The capitalist system can offer the youth no future.

The youth are prepared to make enormous sacrifices in the struggle to transform society. The road to achieving this goal lies through linking up with the struggle of the workers.

Only the organised working class can defeat the bosses and the state, abolish national oppression and lay the foundations for a democratic socialist society. The youth have a crucial role to play in building up the organisations of the working class on the basis of a programme for the socialist transformation of South and Southern Africa.

Too much success for German socialist leaders?

In the last regional elections before the West German general elections next October, the Tories suffered a crushing defeat in the North-Rhine Westfalia.

A 3½% swing to the Social Democrats not only cut the Tory vote by 4% but also threw out the Liberals (who got less than 5% and therefore lost all their MPs) giving the SPD an absolute majority in this regional parliament. If this result were repeated in every region, then the Social Democrats would have an absolute majority and not need a coalition with the Liberals.

Indeed, in all regional elections since June 1978, the Tories' share of the vote has fallen in every region except Berlin. Even in their southern strongholds they have lost 3-4% to the "Green Party" (Ecologists).

The Social Democrats have only twice lost votes and have made gains in the most solidly working-class areas like Hamburg, Frankfurt, Saarland and Westfalia. These results show the beginnings of class polarisation prior to the general election.

The Tories held their national conference in Berlin last month just after the Westfalia elections, and tried hard to hide growing discontent with Strauss. "More Tory votes switched to SPD than ever before in a regional election" declared one expert, showing some Tories' fear that Strauss, the most reactionary German politician since 1945, might lose them the October election.

Meanwhile the German and British press fear left-wing moves within the Social Democratic Party and especially the unions. The party in Westfalia is talking of removing all Liberals from coalition office in the region and scrapping all nuclear

power developments (big issue within Germany).

The "Sunday Times" on May 18th declared that although the Social Democrats could win an absolute majority in the general election, "does Schmidt want one? The Social Democrats rank-and-file contains more real left-wingers than its government policies suggest. Schmidt's goal is to win in October—but not by too big a margin."

In other words, if the SPD win an absolute majority they will not be able to hide behind the 'need' for a Lib-Lab coalition. They will have no socialist programme of nationalisation and workers' control. An absolute majority will be the first step towards 'Labour to Power on a Socialist Programme', the demand of German marxists.

By Mike Levene

(North Nottingham LPYS)

BACK INTO ECONOMIC RECESSION

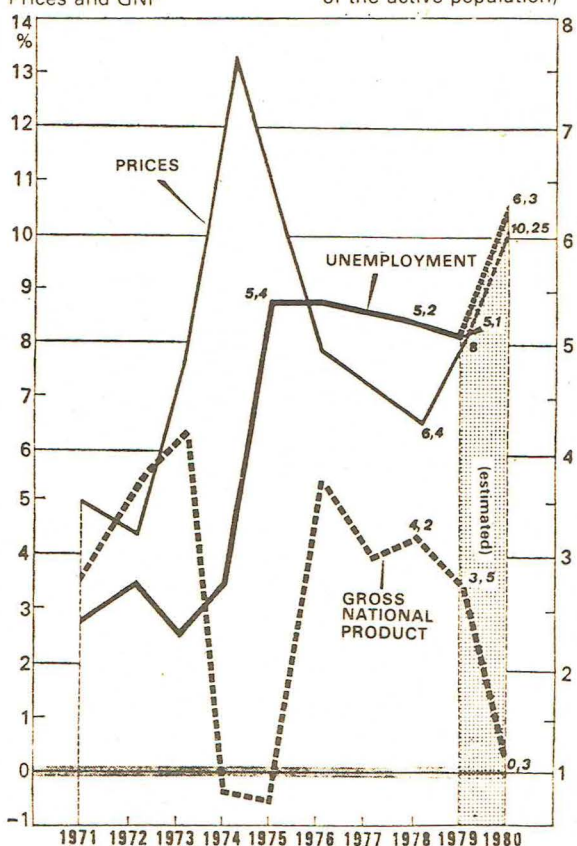
The recession is here. The major industrialised countries are facing unemployment and little growth. As the accompanying graph indicates, the seven major capitalist countries have entered this recession in a worse position than the last, 1974-75.

Whereas in the 15 years preceding 1974, Western countries averaged a 5.5% growth rate, since 1974 it has only been 2.5%. There has been no return to the "normality", which capitalist spokesmen promised.

The growth of 1975-6 quickly subsided and current forecasts predict stagnation this year for the major capitalist countries in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Unemployment it is predicted will reach record levels, inflation on average will soar over 10% [with some countries 20% plus].

Balance of payment difficulties will get worse and monetary problems grow. Unemployment may reach 20 million this year in the advanced capitalist world and

ANNUAL GROWTH RATES OF OUTPUT, PRICES AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE SEVEN LEADING OECD COUNTRIES
Unemployment (as a percentage of the active population)



within the EEC alone, it is expected to rise from 6 million to 7 million by December. It was just a hiccup. Now, no capitalist commentator is so optimistic. It's a bleak future their system offers.

In 1974-5 workers were told

NEW MILITANT INTERNATIONAL PAMPHLET

"INDIA: The Gathering Storm" by Roger Silverman.
Price 60p [plus 15p, P & P]
from World Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.



Letters

**VIEWS? COMMENTS? EXPERIENCES?
CRITICISM? WRITE ABOUT THEM TO:**

MILITANT, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

SCHOOL BEGGING-BOWL

Dear Comrades

Last Tuesday, my six year old daughter came home from school with some forms for a sponsored walk. Naturally I thought it was for a school trip, but when I asked her she said it was for books and pencils.

What a cheek! So now we have to pay twice for our kids' education. This is what the Tory cuts mean to my family.

Today it's books and pencils, tomorrow it will be school buildings paid for out of the collecting tin. Reverse the cuts now! Kick the Tories out!

Fraternally
Malcolm Hyde
Handsworth Labour Party

TORIES WHITEWASH STARVATION WAGES

Dear Comrades

Can anyone now doubt whose interests the Tory government are trying to protect, when this week they have refused to publish the names of 33 British companies who are paying African workers starvation wages in their operations in South Africa [*'Observer'* 25/5/80]?

These companies are profiteering in various major industries including oil, banking, engineering and insurance; of 100,000 workers employed by them over 20% are paid below the minimum level "recommended" by an EEC code of practice—which is itself doesn't guarantee a decent

living standard.

Including these 33 companies there are some 200 operating in South Africa. Several of these [Gallaghers, Hoover and Sun Alliance are three well-known ones] failed or refused to give information on their conditions of employment. They are trying to hide the appalling conditions and low wages their employees are living with.

It was a ministerial decision not to publish the companies' names in the Department of Trade report which was prepared last month. In other words, the Tory government are attempting to protect capital-

ist interests by denying information to the labour movement in Britain and by trying to whitewash the activities of British companies in South Africa.

It is the responsibility of the trade union and labour movement to demand this information and to press for decent wages and conditions for their brothers in South Africa. International working class solidarity is necessary to smash the international class solidarity of the capitalists and to end their system!

Yours fraternally
Alan Anderton
TGWU 9/212

WHEN THE SUN NEVER SET

Dear Comrades,

I was recently writing an essay for my course at poly and came across some interesting quotes in a book by Ferdynand Zweig, published in 1961. They illustrate how things have changed and how right the Marxist analysis that 'Militant' gives is.

"First we can witness a considerable rise in security-mindedness, the factory worker has a relatively high security of employment.

"The bitter memories of the past are fading away. If he is under 40 he hardly knows what it is like to be unemployed."

The myths and promises of a growing capitalist economy were used to make people believe in capitalism and the affluence it created. The Marxist analysis given at the time was right in pointing out how short-lived these 'gains' would be.

The same author goes on: "Class divisions are no longer marked out by hostility and segregation," and talking about the working class he writes "The class struggle interests him less and less."

Events have shown how wrong such comments are, as more and more groups of workers are drawn into struggle against the present government and the capitalist system. It pays not to forget the easy promises and opinions of the past.

Yours fraternally,
Andy Allenby,
Havant and Waterloo
LPYS

WATERING THE BEER

Dear Comrades,

A large survey recently carried out by South Yorkshire County Council has revealed that 9 pints in every 100 served in the county's pubs have been watered. As a result of South Yorkshire's lead, tests have also been carried out in other areas, and a similar incidence of watered beer has been found in other parts of Britain.

Given the low wages, long hours and now the possible introduction of new technology which checks every drop of alcohol (perhaps!) delivered, it is not surprising landlords sometimes resort to corruption.

The consumer service is often the first to be 'cut' by Tory local authorities. Even the Labour council in South Yorkshire has had to restrict the activities of this service, not only under the present Tory government, but also under the last Labour government.

As the economic crisis grows therefore, less checks are likely to be made precisely at a time when the temptation to 'fiddle' to maintain profit margins will increase. So not only are workers going to suffer further from declining wages; they are more likely to get cheated when they spend their money!

Yours fraternally,
DA Milsom
Attercliffe LPYS

NOLS: WHAT CRISIS?

Dear Comrades,

Alan Watson (Militant 503) makes a number of allegations about NOLS.

The NOLS NC accepted that it would put forward constitutional amendments to the next NOLS conference to admit some categories of part-time students to NOLS. But the NC cannot amend the constitution itself, and the amendment passed by conference last year to delete the words 'full time' from the constitution is not acceptable to the NEC since it gives no effective definition of who is entitled to join NOLS. The NC's view was accepted by the organisation sub-committee of the NEC (of which Tony Saunio is a member), unanimously.

The NC did not abolish 'minority' documents. It recognised that NOLS members have a wide range of views and that no particular minority has a right to special privileges. All NOLS clubs now have the right to submit full amendments—including 'delete all and insert' type amendments—to the part of the conference documents which will be voted on.

On the NEC's Youth Committee, I supported an increase in the LPYS budget of £9,000. NOLS has consistently argued for substantial increases in the youth budget, ie for both LPYS and NOLS. The figure of £50,000 is however simply not realistic in the party's current financial situation and merely serves to make the LPYS seem irresponsible. That level of increase certainly would mean redundancies at Labour Party Head Office and cuts in the political education department and women's sections—both areas of the party's work which NOLS strongly supports.

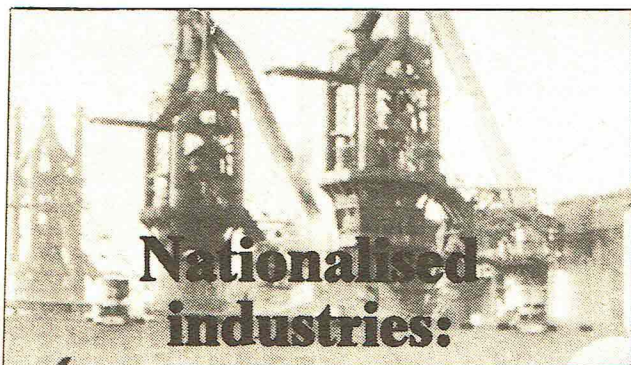
On Glasgow University Labour Club, the allegations made are very serious and in the first instance are the business of the student organiser, precisely because he is politically independent within NOLS—unlike the inquiry Alan proposed. He will report to the NC's September meeting and appropriate action will be taken if necessary.

On Alan's more general points, I am astonished to learn that 'this is a time of crisis for the NOLS leadership'. At the last NUS Conference, two independent NOLS candidates were elected to the NUS Executive. When Glenys Bithell, then representing the 'Militant' fighting Marxist leadership of NOLS, stood in 1975, she received nineteen (19) votes. This Easter NUS adopted Labour's alternative economic policy as a whole for the first time ever, largely due to NOLS' efforts, while Militant's programme was overwhelmingly defeated.

With LPYS membership static and the number of branches represented at conference not up on 1978 after a year of 'the most reactionary Tory government this century', why not talk about the crisis 'Militant' faces? NOLS membership is up 21% this year, and has grown by 70% in the last three years from 3,500 to 6,000.

It is hardly surprising if NOLS' success is news to most 'Militant' readers. 'Militant' has consistently failed to enable NOLS officers to respond to the attacks on NOLS in your columns. This makes a mockery of Bob and Lynne Faulkes' claims in the same issue that " 'Militant's' letter page has always been open to opposition."

Yours fraternally,
David Smith
NOLS Chairperson



Dear Comrades,

The running of hospitals, docks and even the transport systems of Britain would be impossible for one second without the efforts of working people.

Management are proved to be incapable of production without the workforce. Recent strikes have demonstrated how workers themselves can manage the running of giant hospitals, the docks and, as during the lorry drivers' strike, organise the entire goods' transport in Britain.

This action poses a real threat to the employers as it endorses the idea that socialist planning of the economy is not only an attractive idea but entirely

possible.

However the letter from Joe Herbertson of 'Real Steel News', fails to pose an alternative to the bankrupt management of the present nationalised industries. The letter states that Lynn Walsh (issue 502) simply argued for increased representation on the BSC board of management.

On re-reading Lynn's article, we find this is not the case. 'Militant' argues squarely against workers' participation but understands the need to pose an alternative to the present management, who aim to axe 52,000-plus jobs.

The argument is for full workers' control in the

running of the shop floor, a movement from below which extends checks already established over safety, hiring and firing etc. This is linked to workers' management, not in a token form, but with industry in the hands of the movement, management drawn one third from the shopfloor unions, one third from the TUC and one third from the government.

However, with capitalism in crisis no body can be seen as static. The labour movement would have to use the management of any industries to expose the capitalist system itself, explaining the illegal price rigging of the building firms and the legal rigging of interest rates by the banks and money lenders.

From such a platform it would be possible to explain in unshakable argument the need to nationalise the subsidiary industries and mobilise for the full socialist transformation of society with a planned economy and all industry under democratic workers' control and management.

Yours fraternally,
Jon Ingham,
Leeds No 6 AUEW

senting the knowledge and needs of other industries such as coal, transport, motor cars and manufacture which are closely linked to steel, and one-third from the government, would ensure integrated planning of the industry. The board members would be paid the average wage, would be responsible to the bodies that elected them and subject to recall.

Along with workers' management of the entire industry, the day-to-day running would be under the control of the workers in the industry. Workers' control would ensure the best running of plant while maintaining the interest of the workers, and would act as a further check on the board.

Workers' control and management would mean that the skills and knowledge of the working class would run industry for the benefit of the whole of society not just the few.

Fraternally
Harry James
ISTC Teesside

BSC MIS MANAGEMENT

Dear Comrade

Joe Herbertson in his letter (Militant 504) makes many correct criticisms of the worker-director scheme in BSC. It was a sop to the workers' demand to have a real say in the running of the nationalised steel industry. No one should have any illusions that it is even an interim solution.

As far as workers are concerned the scheme leads nowhere. However, it is not a major cause of the past weakness of ISTC. In fact it is pretty much irrelevant. Many of us came to that conclusion long ago: the Teesside Joint Branches passed a resolution opposing the scheme.

Unfortunately Joe seems to have misunderstood what Lynn Walsh and 'Militant' say. At no time has 'Militant' called for a few extra workers on the board.

We want the present system scrapped. It is impossible to run national-

ised industries properly with the old management or people from that circle.

The addition of a few token workers to these unelected and non-responsible boards is no answer. But what is to take its place?

At a time when ISTC is calling for an enquiry into the Board and workers in the industry are questioning the management of BSC, we must put forward an answer. Unlike Joe's letter which has no answer, 'Militant' puts forward workers' control and management.

We want the nationalised industries to be run for the benefit of society, not the private sector as at the moment. It should be run by the people who know how—the working class.

Workers' management on the basis of one-third, one-third, one-third: one-third of the board from the steel unions with their knowledge of the industry, one-third from the TUC, repre-

Build Militant

Area	Received	Percentage of half-year's target achieved	Target half-year	Target for year
Eastern	1,534		2,250	5,000
East Midlands	1,331		1,710	3,800
Hants & IOW	1,183		1,755	3,900
Humberside	488		1,125	2,500
London East	2,278		2,790	6,200
London West	1,572		2,115	4,700
London South	2,325		1,800	4,000
Manchester & Lancs	1,037		2,295	5,100
Merseyside	1,857		2,700	6,000
Northern	1,918		3,285	7,300
Scotland East	818		1,440	3,200
Scotland West	1,394		2,250	5,000
Southern	1,795		2,655	5,900
South West	853		1,440	3,200
Wales East	469		1,260	2,800
Wales West	602		1,395	3,100
West Midlands	2,855		4,050	9,000
Yorkshire	1,792		3,285	7,300
Others	6,133		5,400	12,000
Total received	34,214		45,000	100,000

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

DOUBLE OUR INCOME

The core of the manufacturing sector of the British economy seems to be heading for the lowest rate of profits for many years.

It's easy to see why: the government does not realise that the working class have been subsidising profits for years; not only by working for low wages, but as taxpayers and rate-payers as well.

Now the chickens are coming home to roost. Only the North Sea Oil sector, along with non-productive banking and property firms are doing well.

What's been happening is a transfer of resources from the productive sector to the service industries. As this process continues, with forecasts of millions more unemployed and capacity idle, we need every penny we can get to expand our circulation and put forward our programme in the labour and trade union movement.

This week our Fighting Fund total was down for the second successive week, but we believe there's money already collected and on its way from many areas. Money is still coming in from May 14th (where supporters got paid anyway, or where they're full time TU officers etc)—thanks to L Woods, Edinburgh, and D Colbourn (Croydon) amongst others.

We'd also like to thank all the trade union branches that have donated. At the top of

By Derrick McClelland

the list is Jarrow ISTC with £20.

Nearly £35 came from delegates to the Special Labour Party Conference, including £4 from Bill Deal (1979/80 FBU President) and £2 from J Dunn (Clay Cross LP). Thanks also to A Breeze and J Sutton (Newham), Audrey Wise, and NGA members (£8).

Manchester supporters are trying to catch up with their target. If they follow the example set this week by readers in Ardwick, they'll do it yet! Over £66 came in, with £17 from Rusholme Ward and GEC readers, and £3 from Mrs Baxter supplementing various small donations. Rochdale 'jewellery', a frequent boost to our profits, netted £25.

Birmingham's Readers' Meeting was successful financially, to the tune of £54, and £26.52 was sent from a 'Militant' meeting in Cumbernauld.

A fair number of fivers were counted this week, but we're sure there's more still out there! Thanks to D Newbury, T&GWU, (Blidworth) and 3 Sheffield com-

rades, one of whom, however, admitted it was his winnings at cards. We can ask comrades to emulate the following good example though, from Sheffield: "After the paper sale on a Friday night, when we average about 30/40 per week, we go to the local pub and before comrades buy a round we always have a collection for the paper."

M Campbell (Eastbourne) sent us £10 given him for 'Bed and Board' by a comrade visiting him. How many other readers could make this a useful source of funds for us, after allowing for extra costs? D Roberts, Birkenhead, en-

closed £1 with a letter to the Editor. Thanks, brother.

Finally, 'profitable enclosures' came from B Ogston of Morecambe CLP and readers in Cardiff SE CLP who sent us just over £20 this week. What about the other Welsh readers, then? We urge all supporters to send us something each week to ensure we get the £2,130 per week to reach £45,000 by July 12th!

Sell a book of raffle tickets each week, for a start! (see advert) And use a collectors' card to record donations. Send them off promptly to avoid complicated arithmetic. Our 'profits' will be a step towards socialism.

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1-19 55p each; 20 plus—40p each. Postage included. Cheques to North Nottingham Militant supporters. Orders from G Freeman, 14 Jacklin Gardens, Top Valley, Nottingham

Militant Readers' Meetings

STAFFORDSHIRE MILITANT RALLY

Saturday 7th June 1.30-6.15pm in Stafford At: United Reform Church, Eastgate St. Stafford (Meetings start at 2.00pm). 2.00pm 'Militant' The Socialist Way Forward. Speaker Ted Grant—Militant Political Editor. 3.45pm Break, food, drink, stalls. 4.30pm 'Militant' and Internationalism. Speaker: Jeremy Birch. Birmingham Selly Oak Labour Party. finish 6.15pm. 7.30pm Social, with disco at Railway Club, Stafford. All welcome. For further details, information, Contact: D. Griffiths, 72 Peel Terrace, Stafford (48400).

NORWICH Militant Readers' Meeting. 'Marxism and the Labour Party'. Speaker: Bob Edwards (prominent 'Militant' supporter, Harlow CLP). 8 pm Thursday June 12th. White's Pub, Queen Street, Norwich.

MILITANT SUMMER DRAW 1st prize—Portable TV/Radio/Cassette, 2nd prize—Electronic Clock. Drawn on 12 July 1980. Tickets 10p each from your regular Militant seller. Order a few books to sell yourself, from Militant Summer Draw, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

MILITANT MARXIST WEEKEND SCHOOL June 27th-29th

COURSES ON:

Introduction to Marxism Speakers: John Pickard and Brian Beckingham.

Marxism and the Trade Unions Speakers: Brian Ingham and Bob Faulkes.

The Life of Trotsky Speaker: Ted Grant.

China: History and Perspectives Speakers: Peter Taaffe and Lynn Walsh.

Marxist Economics Speakers: Brian Beckingham and Rob Jones.

PLUS:

Debate: The Lessons of Chile 1970-73. Speakers: Lynn Walsh (Militant) Mike Gatehouse (Communist Party).

FILM: The Battle for Chile

At: Goldsmith's College Students Union, Lewisham Way, London SE14.

Cost: £3.00 whole weekend, £1.50 Saturday or Sunday only, £1.00 Friday evening only. Half price School Students and Unemployed. (Cheques payable to 'Militant').

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Erith and Crayford LPYS barbecue. 315 Bexley Road, Erith, Kent. Saturday 7th June. Entrance 50p. Bring a bottle.

Lothian LPYS 'Educated for Unemployment' Conference Ainslie Park High School, Pilton Avenue, Edinburgh. Speakers: Ron Brown MP, Margaret Reavey (LPYS National Committee), Chris Hill (Newcastle Unemployed Centre) 1 pm to 5 pm. Saturday 14th June. Plus Disco 7.30 pm Saturday evening. Triangle Club, West Pilton Bank, Edinburgh.

HILLINGDON Labour Party Young Socialists Public Meeting "How to Fight the Tories" Speakers: Andy Bevan (National Youth Officer) and Jake Magee (Uxbridge Labour Party) Tuesday 10 June 7.30pm. Hayes Community Centre, Island site, Station Road, Hayes, Middx. (nearly opposite Hayes BR Station).

TRADE UNION CONFERENCES

SOGAT

By Jimmy Freil
(Scottish Graphical
Division, West Branch)

When delegates to the Biennial Delegate Council of SOGAT assembled last, in the early summer of 1978, we had a Labour government in office.

The Callaghan government was confident of re-election and determined to ride out the growing swell of criticism from the ranks of the Labour Party and trade unions about its 'social contract' incomes policy, unemployment at the million mark and cuts in the welfare services. That failure to heed the criticism of the trade unions led to its downfall and the return of the Tories in May 1979.

That is the grim difference facing us in 1980. Print workers' own experience has made them all-too aware of the working class, anti-trade union ideology of the Tories.

Thatcher's big business backers have seized the opportunity to attack our wages and conditions with a vigour not seen for decades. The bosses at Times newspapers were prepared to forfeit millions of pounds in a fight to introduce new technology for their benefit and not for ours. The British Printing Industries Federation picked up the fallen sabre of 'The Times' for a second round in the recent battle on wages and new technology.

The fact that both 'The Times' and the BPIF were defeated is a huge testimony to the strength and power of the print unions, and a slap in the face for the Tory generals urging the bosses to take us on. However these are only early skirmishes.

A titanic battle still looms over the introduction of new technology. While supporting the sentiments of resolution 295 on new technology, the crucial factor in determining whether we present a united fighting front, is progress in creating one union for the print.

Resolutions 328 and 313 from the Scottish Graphical Division, which call for a common wages' policy for all print unions and the setting up of Joint Federated Chapels, are worthy of support as practical steps towards this aim.

The executive are actively involved in merger talks with the NGA, have had approaches from NATSOPA seeking amalgamation, while the NUJ are seeking tripartite discussions with the NGA and SOGAT. Conference should make it clear that these negotiations should be pursued as a matter of great importance.

The recent disagreement between SOGAT and the NGA in the BPIF negotiations is a serious warning of the divisions the print bosses will foment if concrete progress to create one union is not made.

The issues of working hours and a minimum wage are clearly related to the fight on new technology. Resolutions 304 to 311 consider the demand for a 35-hour week, but of these 305 as amended and 311 give the most positive lead.

With jobs being lost in the industry right now, a campaign for 35-hours backed with industrial action, com-

bined with a call for similar action from the TUC, would be the most effective policy to adopt. Most of the resolutions, by contrast only call for negotiated implementation.

The demand for an £80 minimum wage in resolutions 260 and 385 must be passed as an essential counterpart to the introduction of a shorter working week.

The struggle for wages and conditions in the print is, however, only part of the greater struggle against the Tories and the capitalist system they represent. The BDC must prepare SOGAT members to play their part in that wider fight.

Resolutions 346 to 350 and 352 to 357 take up the issues of public expenditure cuts and the Tories' assault on trade union rights. All these resolutions should be supported; 346 from London Central, stands out because it clearly links the fight against the Tories with the need to return a Labour government committed to implement socialist policies based on public ownership.

This BDC should also commit our union to public ownership of the press, under workers' control, by amending the General Constitution and Rule Book as suggested by the Scottish Graphical Division in resolution 2. The recent hysterical campaigns against workers in dispute, trade unionists and Labour Party members, reaching new depths in the bare-faced propaganda over the TUC's Day of Action, show how the bosses will use their press if it is left in their hands.

In the meantime however, the socialist press should be supported. In particular the amendment to resolution 394 calls for support of 'Militant'. No section of the socialist press has suffered more scurrilous attacks than the 'Militant'.

The Marxist wing of the Labour Party, fighting in the labour and trade union movement has earned our support, along with the 'Morning Star', 'Labour Weekly' and 'Tribune'.

The Labour party is the political voice of the trade unions and it is time that SOGAT members fully played their part in returning the party to its socialist origins, out of the grip of the carpet-baggers and careerists of the right wing. In this respect resolution 193, from the North Western Group, and its wider implications for the future role of SOGAT in the Labour Party, must be passed.

New technology, wages, conditions, and the fight for a socialist alternative to capitalism will become more pressing as the crisis of the British economy deepens. The 203,000 strong membership of SOGAT can no longer allow itself the luxury of meeting only every second year to determine policy and strategy.

EIS

The determined action of EIS members over the last few weeks in fighting for a decent wage increase has shown how prepared Scottish teachers are to defend their living standards.

Our present official action has been forced on the union leadership by the increased militancy of the membership—with walk-outs, lobbies of union headquarters and the emergence of action committees in the best organised areas of the country.

The leadership now has the task of harnessing this energy to win the full claim. If the latest negotiations fail to obtain a decent increase then they must reject arbitration or staged deals and instead continue the campaign.

The AGM's agenda shows that debate after debate will bring up the question of the role of the EIS. For too long many sections of the leadership have attempted to hold the union back by stressing

the 'professionalism' of teachers, playing down our role as trade unionists.

However, teachers are not prepared to be what EIS President Rose Galt describes as 'the genteel poor of society.' Instead we should build a democratic, fighting trade union, capable of defending teachers and the service we provide.

Our strategy must be clearly worked out. While the suggestion of a 'Pay Review Body' may seem attractive to some teachers, it would effectively be a tool of government policy.

Since it would "make recommendations which would be expected to be accepted by all Parties" ('Scottish Educational Journal' 30/5/80), it would be difficult to see the benefit to us when the government is determined to cut our real wages.

To make matters worse, taking pay out of the political limelight would effectively

take fighting for pay increases out of the hands of the unions and consequently damage the EIS's ability to fight for its members. Instead of withdrawing from pay negotiations we should be making our bargaining position stronger—by linking up with other teachers and the general local authority unions.

While most of the AGM motions on the cuts deal solely with education, the issue of local anti-cuts campaigns arises. The EIS must begin to play its part in fighting not just against education cuts but all cuts in social spending, returning the tremendous support from other trade unionists in our wages campaign.

Motion A16, calling for opposition to the Tories' Employment Bill, together with motion 59 on picketing and motion 72 on the closed shop, bring the issue of a stronger approach to industrial action to the fore.

Unfortunately, though the

agenda has massive gaps in it—no debates on the economy, unemployment, health service, etc. The situation where no debate is allowed on 'non education matters' must be ended. This year, motions on defence expenditure, abortion and other issues have been declared incompetent and so cannot be debated.

The tasks of democratising the AGM and indeed all levels of the union are now being considered by many members. Once this year's wages fight has been finished, no doubt many EIS members will turn their attentions to establishing permanent reps committees, control over officials, a more democratic structure etc.

While the AGM must decide on the policies necessary to defend our living standards, the membership will be enthusiastically building an organisation and leadership capable of fighting for these policies.

By David Williams
(Delegate to AGM)

NALGO

The National and Local Government officer's union, NALGO, is undergoing a radical change.

NALGO members are becoming increasingly aware that if the Tory government succeeds in its aim of destroying public services, the result will be massive redundancies and wage cuts for workers in the public sector.

This mood is reflected in a number of conference resolutions attacking government policies and calling on the union leadership to mount and lead a fighting campaign against these policies.

Resolutions from Liverpool and Glasgow rightly identify the need for NALGO to link up in this campaign with the broader labour and trade union movement, both at

national and local level.

Another resolution from Strathclyde stresses the need to fight for the early return of a Labour government, but emphasises that such a government should not be based on the programme and policies of the last two Labour governments (Wilson and Callaghan have been called the inventors of public expenditure cuts), but "committed to the establishment of a planned socialist economy."

Resolutions such as these have more immediate relevance than ever before, given the fighting mood of NALGO members. This was most dramatically shown in the recent completely successful campaign of industrial action waged by Local government section members, in their fight against the national employers' original compar-

bility offer.

This campaign and victory clearly demonstrated that with resolute fighting leadership, local authority workers (the majority of our membership) have the strength to resist attacks on jobs and living standards.

As a consequence of the victory of the local government members, the NEC's white paper on industrial action is likely to be amended or referred back, to take account of the lessons of that victory.

NALGO members now clearly see the link between government policies and their jobs, wages and conditions of service. Consequently, the question of NALGO affiliation to the Labour Party is emerging as a vital issue.

One resolution, from Southwark, calls for confer-

ence to vote on affiliation at this stage. Given the level of confusion among ordinary members regarding the issues involved, supporters of the 'Militant' regard this as premature. We are calling for support for the resolution submitted jointly by Strathclyde and Lothian branches, which calls for a ballot of all members following a minimum period of six months publicity and debate.

The Tory government is planning an all-out offensive on public services and public sector workers. NALGO members represent a substantial proportion of that group.

This year's conference offers an opportunity for the largest of the white collar unions to commit itself and its members to a policy of total resistance to the Tories and their policies.

By Jim Cameron
(NALGO)

ASTMS

This weekend's Annual Delegate Conference of ASTMS is important for several reasons.

A union as diverse as ASTMS will obviously have many internal difficulties to sort out and part of the agenda is devoted to these.

After last year's ADC delegates refused at first to accept the recommendations of Standing Orders Committee, more efforts have been made to produce an agenda which reflects the wishes of the membership.

But for a union this size, a two and a half day conference is obviously inadequate. Ferranti 146 branch have a resolution calling for an examination of ADC and this should be supported.

This year, for the first time, items on 'political' questions will be debated by the full conference rather than just those who pay political levy. In ASTMS probably a minority pay the levy, and a campaign to increase the number is vital. There is also the necessity to tighten up rules on political levy payments after members of one branch took the union to

court in order to pay the branch's political fund to the Tory trade unionists' organisation.

How anyone considering themselves a trade unionist could take this step is difficult to believe, given the Tory attacks on trade unionists, but conference must come down heavily on this question.

This can not only be by rule changes but by giving a much more vital lead to groups from staff associations etc. who have seen the necessity of becoming part of the trade union movement but have not yet understood that unions by their very nature must have a political voice—in the form of a Labour Party.

Certainly the major questions on delegates' minds will be cuts in employment, social services and wages and how to oppose them. Composite C calls for ASTMS to actively oppose cuts in public expenditure and must be supported.

The NEC has itself made one propaganda step in such a campaign by taking up the initiative of Brighton Trades Council and refusing to

accept civic hospitality from Brighton's Tory council which is bent on cutting expenditure to destroy social services.

But such a campaign cannot stop at mere opposition.

It is necessary to put forward some alternative. Composite A at least declares that socialist policies form the only solution, but does not go on to spell them out.

Most likely, the view adopted by the NEC will be that of the TUC's 'Alternative Economic Strategy' with all the weaknesses that have been spelled out in the pages of 'Militant'.

Particularly there is a resolution from Bosworth, 826, which calls for a boycott of imported goods, which, as we have spelled out time and time again would merely mean British workers cutting their own living standards in the interests of the bosses.

ASTMS Annual Delegate Conference 1980 definitely represents a big step forward from previous years. Partly this represents the beginning of the knitting together of the various groups that form the

union, under the pressure of the Thatcher government.

But that development must be speeded by increasing the accountability of the executive and officers to the union, and by mounting a greater campaign both inside and outside the union for positive opposition to the Tory attacks.

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Militant pamphlet
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Bristol busmen on the 'Day of Action' march in Bristol

Bristol: defend union rights

On Wednesday 28 May a mass meeting of over 400 bus crew staff of Bristol City T&GWU 3/111 decided to strike to secure the reinstatement of their Branch Secretary, sacked by the Bristol Omnibus Company. The strike is 100% solid and no city bus services have been operating since Wednesday. When the shop stewards' committee heard the statement from Mr Wellman, General Manager of the company of the intention to discipline their Branch Secretary, Mike Hall, their response was to instruct him not to attend the meeting. The management, smarting from the overwhelming 84% response to the May 14 Day of Action from the bus

crews, are using allegations that Brother Hall used offensive language to company officials on that day. At the time of writing talks between the union and management have broken down with no further talks planned. The reason cited for the dismissal was Mike's non-appearance at the hearing, but his subsequent appearance at two appeals has not altered management's position. This has only reinforced the determination of the men, who see this as a thinly disguised attempt to strike at the organisation of the union. Already men are comparing the sacking to BL's dismissal of Derek Robinson. As one picket said, "We are fighting against this becom-

ing common practice to get rid of union militants." **STOP PRESS:** Following all day talks with TGWU regional secretary, Ron Nethercott on Tuesday, Bristol Omnibus Company have conceded the full reinstatement of sacked branch secretary, Mike Hall. This victory has been brought about solely due to the tremendous unity shown on the picket lines, but busmen will need to remain vigilant in case of further management provocation. **Dave Brown** (Bristol West LPYS) spoke to pickets at the Lawrence Hill bus depot

NOTTS NUM: FIGHT CLOSURES!

By Paul Shawcroft (Mansfield LPYS)

The need for national leadership in the fight against pit closures was spelled out by Albert Froggatt, Secretary of Teversal NUM, when he spoke at a Mansfield LPYS public meeting. Despite the unsuccessful campaign to keep the Teversal colliery open, Albert pointed out the need to keep up the fight concerning other pit closures in South Wales and so on. Describing the fight to keep Teversal open, he told how members of the liaison committee had worked 18 hours a day canvassing other pits in

the area, but the lack of a national campaign on the question proved decisive. Fortunately, most of the men from Teversal have now got jobs to go to at other places, but in the future with a long waiting list, most Notts. miners might not have a job to go to. It was told how an offer by Tony Benn to allow the NUM to veto any pit closures had been turned down by the leadership of the union. Bob Moody (Wellbeck NUM) spoke about the effect of pit closures on local communities. When Lang-

with colliery closed, "the whole heart was ripped out of the village." As if to prove his point, a few days later the local cricket team disbanded, after being in existence for over a hundred years. Bob said that the miners should put up a united fight:
★ No to pit closures.
★ A four-day week with no loss of pay
★ Democratic workers' control and management of the mining industry
★ For a socialist planned economy.

Shand Kydd: 'WE WILL WIN'

As soon as the local LPYS branches heard that the Shand Kydd wallpaper factory at Christchurch was going to close, throwing 400-500 workers on to the dole, they started a mass campaign in support of the workers. Immediately they approached local factories in the area, asking shop stewards and convenors etc to ask their members to sign petitions deploring the closure and pledging their full support for workers in their fight for jobs.

On the Saturday we hit the shopping area of Christchurch, we were amazed at the sympathy from the local community. Petition forms were rapidly filled and money forthcoming for the Shand Kydd fighting fund. On the Sunday we took the petition forms round the local housing estate next to the factory, and the support was overwhelming. Nearly every household was either directly involved or had relatives and friends involved in the threat-

ened closure. An AUEW convenor from Metal Box at Poole returned with six completed petitions within 48 hours. An appeal made to the Fabians raised over £13. This kind of solidarity will give workers at Shand Kydd the confidence not only to fight the management but to win.
By Dave Lovett (Deputy FOC, Shand Kydd, and Youth Officer, Bournemouth CLP)

NUDBTW

"The one thing that stands in the way of the Tories is 12 million trade unionists...more positive and stronger action than May 14 is needed." This was how Frank Cottam, delegate from Shipley, summed up the angry anti-Tory mood at the National Council of the National Union of Dyers, Bleachers and Textile Workers. Strategy to save jobs and the textile industry tended, however, to revolve around selective import controls and protectionism. These measures represent a dangerous step towards alignment with the employers, who have vandalised the textile industry and are represented by the very Tory government conference so rightly castigated. Redundancies can be stemmed only when the employers know the union means busi-

ness and are forced to fear riding roughshod over textile workers. Import controls would offer no lasting solution—they would merely protect our bosses' inefficiency and chaos. Measures to take the fight forward, such as a 35-hour week, were passed but a resolution on a £75 minimum wage was narrowly defeated because it was "too specific." A delegate rightly pointed out that a 35-hour week should not be an excuse for more overtime; this however is inevitable unless a decent basic wage is achieved. One textile union with one national claim presented to the membership before negotiations must be the aim. Conference obviously felt that a purely economic battle could not solve workers' problems. Resolutions calling

for more Labour Party involvement, affiliation to local cuts campaigns, for reselection of MPs and the nationalisation of the banks and finance houses were passed. The union now has a sponsored prospective parliamentary candidate. This trend of more involvement in politics is extremely important. While a militant union will protect its membership more effectively, textiles will continue to decline without a political solution as outlined by union policy: the nationalisation of the textile industry.
By Peter Watson (Bradford West CLP)



The picket line at Tandy's. As the movement for unionisation is building momentum, the latest name to be added to the list of Granwick, Chix and Klein's is Tandy's warehouse at Wednesbury in the West Midlands. The pickets told me about wages that range from a miserable top rate of £1.20 per hour to less than 70p per hour for one 16-year old lad. Birthday rises aren't paid for 6 or 8 months after they

are due. The final straw was rising unemployment which meant them worrying over job security, and they felt they needed the protection of a union and joined ACTSS-T&GWU. Management refuses to recognise the union or even talk with their district organiser. In one week of strike the picket line has grown very bitter over management's tactics, with pickets being

knocked down by vehicles crossing the line. Offers of support and donations may well be vital in this struggle and should be sent through: J A Jones, District Organiser ACTSS-T&GWU, 33 Berry Street, Willenhall, Near Wolverhampton, West Midlands.
By Dave Sankey (NUFGW)

ASLEF

As all ASLEF members are aware, 1980 marks the centenary of our union. From the days when railwaymen worked 24 hour shifts, suffered deductions of pay or sackings for trivial mistakes, and trade union organisation meant risking your job, railway workers have been at the forefront of many working class struggles. But amid our centenary celebrations we must ask why, despite mighty struggles of the past, from Taff Vale to the defeat of Heath's Industrial Relations Act we are facing the most reactionary Tory government since Baldwin's time. Resolutions to this year's ASLEF Conference certainly

reflect an understanding of what this Tory government's policy means and the determination and readiness to fight back. Practically all the resolutions on wages and the claim make reference to the high rate of inflation and the need for substantial pay rises at least in line with the rate of inflation. Resolutions from Polmadi and Corkerhill correctly warn of the Tories' financial policy with regard to nationalised industries and its effect on future wage rises. There are preparations for future battles also. The Birmingham resolution number 14, amended by Stratford, calls for future national strikes to include all members

on both LT and BR. This reflects a growing desire in both companies for increasing our strength through greater links and full unity in action in the future. The fight to maintain rail jobs features in several parts of the agenda. The BR strategy for the 1980s document is aimed at higher productivity, further cuts in manning levels, closures in freight and parcels, and an attempt to run the railways within the (mis) guidelines. Resolution 47 from Redhill, appears to compromise on all opposition to the document, and should therefore be opposed. So too, should resolutions 112 and 115 from Marylebone and Woking re-

spectively which call upon the EC to accept one man operation, and drivers to take over certain guard duties. Sheffield Midland spell out in resolution 194 how an expanded rail network is to be achieved in calling for a commitment from the TUC and the Labour Party to a policy of public ownership and integration of all forms of transport. A step in that direction will be to work for the removal of this Tory government as clause 4 in resolution 191 from Polmadi demands. As amended by Kings Cross it includes a number of fighting demands including defiance of the Employment Bill, and practical support to be given

to any group of workers opposing Tory government policy. To ensure that the next Labour government is accountable to the working class, resolution 188 from Corkerhill, and 189 from Aberdeen in support of the present steps towards Labour Party democracy, must also be supported. Resolution 190 from Polmadi calls for an irreversible shift in the balance of wealth and power in favour of working people and for such policies to be included in Labour's election manifesto and the programme of the Labour government. In order to ensure this is carried through successfully

the labour and trade union leaders need to mobilise the movement around the publicity put forward by the Marxists which are growing in support. In that way we won't only see the bringing down of this Tory government in the 1980s but can also be certain that long before our bicentenary we'll be living in a socialist society, where unemployment and other attacks on the working class are a thing of the past.
By Martin Elvin (Stratford, ASLEF)

LABOUR PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS

WANTED

-A FUTURE FOR SCHOOL LEAVERS

The Tories are proposing that as from next year school leavers won't be able to sign on until the beginning of the term after they leave school.

Easter leavers will have to wait until the summer term, and summer leavers will have to wait until September before they can sign on.

The Tories claim that many young people go back to school and so shouldn't claim benefit and also that the Department of Employment is overworked during the summer months. But those young people who do go back to school in September often do so simply because they can't find a job, and school and taking more exams is a better alternative to the dole queue.

Young people need that social security payment of as little as £12 a week in order to look for work. A journey from home to the careers office for young people in my area is over £1. Fares to interviews for jobs can cost a fortune.

The Tories are attacking young people from every corner. They stop them claiming benefit, then attack school-leavers for not going to interviews and for not being prepared to take a 40-hour-a-week job for £30.

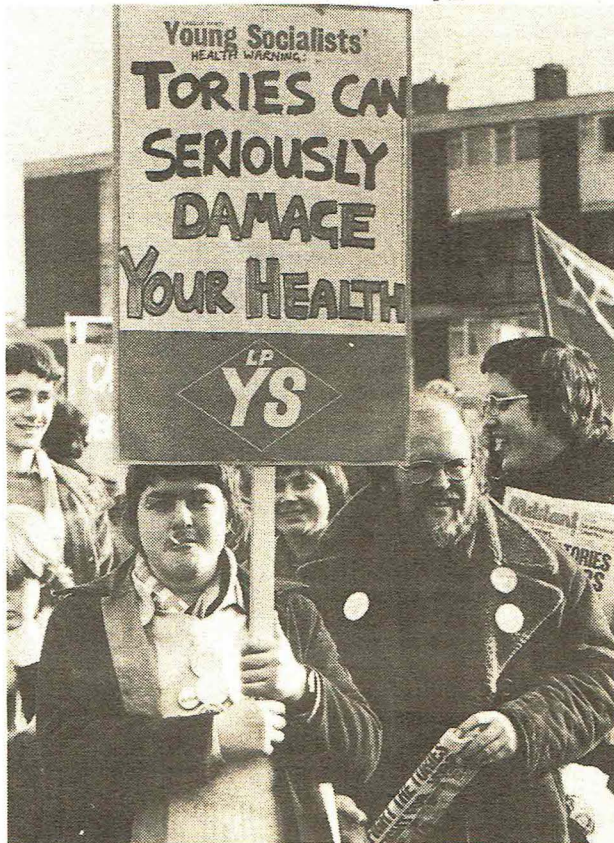
School leavers should have the right to a decent job with proper training and a decent wage.

Already this year school

leavers are facing lengthening dole queues with the prospect of a job disappearing into the distance. The 'Guardian' last week reported that in Liverpool for the 2,000 young people registered for work there were only 14 jobs available, and that was even before this year's summer school leavers had left school.

The Tories' answer to the "problem" of youth unemployment is to create 180,000 places on the Youth Opportunities Programme (YOP) which is the umbrella name for government-sponsored schemes to help school-leavers receive some kind of job training. Whilst the YOP does give some training, it does not solve the problem of unemployment. It is open to exploitation by firms who rather than take on a young person to do a job at a minimum wage, take on school leavers, 26 weeks at a time, and get the government to pay the £23.55 weekly allowance to them.

By Claire Baines
 (Labour Party Young Socialists National Committee member)



Labour Party Young Socialists in action on their demonstration in February

In areas of high unemployment like Scotland, Northern Ireland, the North East and North West, thousands of young people go on the schemes only to find that they are unemployed again when they're finished.

The Tories and their capitalist system, greedy for profits, cannot solve the problem of unemployment, as unemployment is a feature of their system.

The Tory economists are predicting two million or even more unemployed by the end of the year, and that means that young people are going to the hardest hit.

We don't want the bosses' system, which means unemployment and misery for thousands of workers. Under a socialist planned economy we would not see the waste of unemployment and the loss of talents and resources which the Tories have given us.

That's why the LPYS demands:

- ★ a guaranteed job for school leavers
- ★ a national 35-hour working week without loss of pay
- ★ an £80 minimum wage
- ★ Kick out the Tories, Labour to power on a socialist programme
- ★ A socialist planned economy under democratic workers' control and management.

PHOTO: POEU members in action in 1978 for 35-hour week again come to the front



POEU In front line

A marked shift to the left in the Post Office Engineering Union was marked this week by their demand for a 30% wage increase and the election of two lefts to their NEC at conference—one a 'Militant' supporter.

The POEU rank and file members were among the first to take industrial action in the fight for a 35-hour week and give a lead to the working class.

Once again the attention of the whole trade union

movement will be focused on the POEU for their position here at the 1980 conference, to go for a wage rise of 30% on the basic rate.

Delegates representing 126,000 post office engineers decided unless this is achieved by the end of July, industrial action would be taken to win the claim. This means that the POEU will be the first in line for the 1980 wage round.

The union will be in the forefront of a full scale battle against cash limits

imposed by a Tory government intent on holding down wages, and using the public sector workers as a whipping boy.

'Their fight is our fight' must be the standpoint of the TUC if the POEU are to win their claim, and at the same time deal a crippling blow to this reactionary Tory government.

Conference also decided to seek a further 7% separate from the main claim, and a payment for changes in skills brought about by new technology.

SACK THATCHER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

on the coking coal trade with Margam steel works. If they stop our coal going in there, it will devastate our pit, there's no other place we can sell it.

We must oppose the closure strategy of the NCB. A fortnight ago Arthur Scargill in a meeting at Taibach said that the Yorkshire miners had gone on strike over the pits being closed in Kent. We must all be united together in South Wales over any threat to the pits wherever they may be.

Last year our pit lost £1.6 million as we had to sell our coal to Uskmouth power station at a loss of between £8 to £12 a ton. So next year we could be placed on the review list with a view to closure.

Already there are stockpiles of coal all over the place. In Maesteg, it stretches for half a mile and amounts to 1.2 million tonnes.

The Tories undoubtedly want the situation in case of any further miners' strikes, as the Ridley report suggested.

In Wales as a whole there are between 3½ to 4 million tons of coal stockpiled, but they must be joking if they think they can move it.

We need new markets for coal and also adequate financing of the industry, and that means the same subsidies as coal producers abroad. We have to counter NCB arguments about geological and economic difficulties and therefore the need to close pits.

They are trying the same argument in Tynawr. The South Wales miners are very experienced in producing coal in difficult conditions. We

don't produce as much as the 'easy' pits in other areas but on an efficient cost basis.

The mood of our members was quite clear on the TUC day of action. The support was galvanised by the announcement by the NCB of six collieries undergoing review in the South Wales coal field. If it came to a fight, no question, the membership would respond.

But we need a definite direction from our leadership; a proper campaign, with leaflets, demonstrations, pit meetings, posters, and so on.


We can't tolerate the situation any longer. In Maesteg four factories have put 200 on the dole this year alone; we have had two complete shutdowns and massive redundancies. on the Forge industrial estate we have five factories, two of them empty. The only factory in Cymmer has been shut down.

We have formed an action committee to co-ordinate the local labour and trade union movements to fight these redundancies.

In one factory, Silent Channell, we have had a programme of work-sharing for the last three months so we didn't have any redundancies. The action committee held a very successful public meeting on the 10th May with leading trade unionists and MPs, 250 people attended.

It was probably the biggest political meeting that Maesteg had seen in recent years. They also publish a regular news letter explaining the issues to people and pointing a way forward for the fight to retain jobs.

South Wales is facing economic devastation; only the working class can defend jobs and gains won over generations. We, as trade unionists must join the political expression of the trade unions, that is, the Labour Party and fight for a political solution to the crisis of capitalism.



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