

END TORY RULE

The Fightback

Lothian-No to cuts!

Lothian Regional Council's Labour group re-affirmed on Tuesday [4 August] that they would make no cuts in jobs and services in their area.

By Pat Craven

On 6 August, after we go to press, the council face a deadline set by the Secretary of State for Scotland, George Younger, to come up with proposals for cuts.

If the council do not comply, Younger will carry out his threat to start starving the council of vital funds for the region's services.

The Labour councillors are meeting Tory junior minister Rifkind on Thursday.

They will spell out in great detail the devastating consequences of the £47 million of cuts the government is demanding, or of any lower figure

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Railway workers are determined not to suffer the low pay and redundancies on 'offer' from British Rail and the Tory government.

The executives of the two largest rail unions, the National Union of Railwaymen [NUR] and the drivers' union AS-LE&F have recommended national action from 31 August.

This would be the first national rail strike since

By Martin Elvin

1955, fighting not only for an 11% no strings pay deal, but against job losses.

No to redundancies

TOXTETH MURDER



Photo: Patrick McKinnick

David Moore lies dying in the streets of Toxteth shortly after being run down by a police vehicle.

A national demonstration has been organised to protest at police activities in Merseyside on 15 August at 3pm assembling at Sefton Park, Liverpool. Labour movement support for this demonstration is essential.

Railwaymen-No to low pay!

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The railway workers must be supported by all trade unionists, especially the miners and steel workers involved in the triple alliance and other transport unions.

To the disgust of many rank and file members, the railway clerical union, TSSA's leadership have suggested crossing the picket lines. Absolute unity is essential amongst

all railway workers to win this demand.

Productivity deals are on the cards which will mean huge job losses if implemented.

Yet railway boss, Sir Peter Parker is being offered approximately £30,000 a year extra on top of his £48,000 salary, and is allowed to increase his private sector earnings from £2,000 to

between £10,000 and £15,000 a year!

What extra productivity or redundancies will we see from the British Rail Board?

Full support must be forthcoming from all workers for this fight against the Tory government. It must be made the start of a massive campaign to kick out Thatcher's crew and fight for a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.

SUNSHINE and SOCIALISM

Over the weekend, the official mouth-piece of British capitalism, 'The Times', said with its usual foresight that there would be rain by Tuesday.

Well, like its previous fairy tales about the 'Militant' the 'Times' got it wrong. It is Tuesday, the sun is still blazing on and the Reds at the LPYS Annual Summer Camp in Gloucestershire are getting redder all the time. But despite the sun burn, the just under 600 YS members at the camp are having a great time; just the tonic after the media's tortuous coverage of the Royal Wedding last week.

But despite the temptation of sun bathing after the lousy summer we have had so far, all the political meetings and seminars here have been well attended.

Best by far, amongst the earlier meetings of the week was on "World crisis—world struggle."

Here, Tony Saunio, explained the crisis facing all three sections of the world—Western Capitalism, the Stalinist states of the East, and the Third world.

In the West, we see capitalism gripped by recession, with 10% unemployment even in the 'strong' capitalist giant of the USA, and riots were not only a symptom of a diseased capitalism in Britain. Rioting had taken place in the 'stable' countries of Switzerland, West Germany and Holland.

In the third world even the most basic right to live had been taken away. Whereas Britain spends £135 per head of population a year on health, the figure in Bangladesh was only 7p!

And in the Stalinist states the crisis would soon affect the whole of the Eastern Bloc. Only last week, Kiev was hit by a strike of engineering workers.

This debate gave the comrades present from France, Ireland, Sweden, Germany, Turkey and Austria, a chance to explain the experiences and the problems they face in their own countries.

The French comrade from the steel town of Longwy was cheered when he explained that despite the massive victory of the Socialist Party in the French elections, its gains would be lost unless it took up the demands raised by 'Militant' in the nationalisation of the 200 or so top multinationals which control the French economy. This debate was also stimulated by the presence of 30 German Young Socialists who attended the camp for a day after staying in Birmingham.

But its not all politics. Sport and social events are high on the agenda. As usual, the 'Citizens army' team, made up by the Irish comrades, are thrashing everyone at football.

And there was "riotous behaviour" on the first weekend when the Irish folk band 'Crusheen' had everyone dancing and jigging with their excellent brand of reels and Irish labour songs [much aided by the local brew of cider].



Just under 600 members of the Labour Party Young Socialists enjoy sun and political discussion at the LPYS Summer Camp. Fuller report next week.

TORY DIVISIONS -WIDER STILL AND WIDER

By Peter Davies

In May 1979, the election of a Tory government committed to 'monetarist' economic policies was welcomed by big business and their stooges in Fleet Street.

Here was a government, they thought, who would crush the unions, and cut all that 'wasteful' public expenditure (such as schools and hospitals). That would, they said, restore Britain to a profiteers' paradise.

It's only two years ago, but such dreams seem to belong to a different epoch. Inflation is still in double figures, nearly three million are out of work, bankruptcies and redundancies are

the harsh reality for industry. All combine to make many Tories question their leaders' strategy.

And of course, rioting returning to the streets of Britain for the first time since the 1930s is another confirmation of the social consequences of this government.

The Tories' lost deposit at Warrington has made many Tories face electoral reality—with the possibility of the SDP taking many Tory votes at the next election.

Thus, pressure has started from Tory 'Wets' and large sections of the press for a change in government policy, and possibly the ditching of Thatcher herself, whom many Tories now see as an appalling electoral liability.

Geoffrey Howe's pronouncement that the recession has ended bought criticism from Lord Thorneycroft and Francis Pym. Pym warned his own government that "the British people will not be prepared for very much longer to tolerate the worst effects of the recession." Clearly, Thatcher and Howe are becoming increasingly isolated in the Cabinet, with their demands for further cuts in public expenditure.

Losing confidence

It appears that John Biffen and John Nott are also looking for a change in government policy.

As the 'Sunday Telegraph' commented: "rarely can a Conservative Cabinet have been so divided, with a powerful section ill-concealing their doubts." Alan Watkins, the 'Observer's' political columnist, openly speculates about the Tories ditching Thatcher before the election.

The CBI as well are losing confidence in the cabinet—their economic survey shows redundancies continuing at 40,000 a month until the Autumn, hardly in line with Geoffrey Howe's "the recession is now over".

A possibility open to Mrs Thatcher is to have a Cabinet reshuffle, and 'purge' the 'Wets'. To do this would be to risk losing some anti-monetarist Tory MPs to the SDP, and exacerbat-

ing splits in the Tory Party even further. But not to do this means carrying on with only a minority of the Cabinet supporting key parts of her strategy.

In days gone by, Tories never conducted their battles in public. But now with the pressure of a collapsing capitalist economy, the knives are out on both sides. One of the pre-conditions for revolution is splits and divisions in the ruling class.

These latest battles and divisions within the ranks of the Tories, which in reality have existed since the election of Thatcher in 1975, but are now coming to the surface as the brutal reality of monetarism is revealed, are of considerable significance for the labour movement.

CARDIFF SOUTH EAST— A Travesty of Democracy

By Andrew Price

(Cardiff SE Labour Party, personal capacity)

At a recent meeting Cardiff South East CLP nominated Denis Healey for the position of deputy leader of the Party.

Nothing suprising about that you might say coming from one of the most right-wing CLPs in Britain. But the way in which this decision was reached should be of concern to every activist in the Party.

When GMC members received their notice of meeting, they also received

without any explanation at all a piece of paper on which they had to write in the name of the candidate they supported for Party leader, deputy leader, and treasurer. At the meeting Lord Brooks, the CLP secretary and national organiser for 'Solidarity' explained that this 'democratic' procedure would allow everybody to have their say. Yes indeed! At least one ballot paper went to somebody living outside the constituency!

Brooks refused to give any explanation as to how many ballot papers had been sent

out, how many had been sent back, and after the count no figures were given on the votes cast for each candidate. In addition Brooks was quite prepared to dish out ballot papers at the GMC meeting on request, so as far as the GMC knew nothing could have prevented a delegate posting his ballot paper in and then claiming another one at the meeting.

During the protests that were going on about this appalling travesty of the basic principles of electoral procedure one delegate asked Brooks if he would read out

the letters that had been sent to each CLP from Tony Benn and John Silkin. Brooks replied that he had read the letters and they were rubbish so he had left them at home.

Any active trade unionist would literally cringe at the idea of a secretary having the right to arbitrarily decide which correspondence should be reported to a meeting. There have already been disputes over correspondence. Brooks left a YS resolution off the GMC agenda, claiming he had not received it, yet two YS members said they had taken

the trouble of personally delivering it to Brooks.

The way in which Cardiff South East CLP is run has important lessons for the movement. Having been an active member of this party for over 10 years, I cannot recall many GMCs in the last few years where the sort of attacks one reads in the 'Daily Express' about the 'Militant' and the left in general are not made.

Practically always these attacks are spearheaded by Brooks and local MP Jim Callaghan. They are supported by a small vociferous clique of right-wingers who resort to terrible personal abuse when their position is challenged. When you next hear Dennis Healey attacking the 'intolerance' of the left, remember that it is people like these who desperately want him to win.

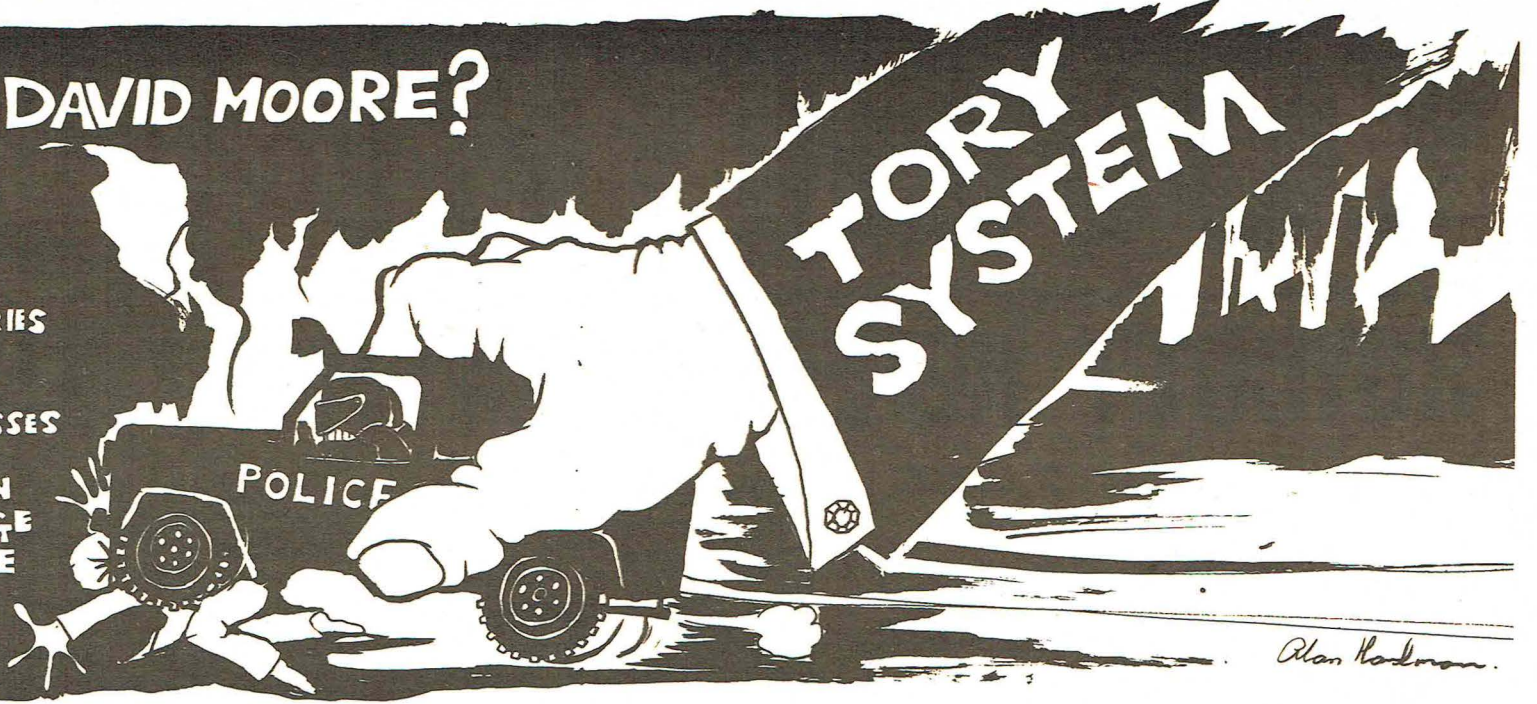
WHO KILLED DAVID MOORE?

NOT US SAY THE FUZZ
DOING OUR JOB WE WAS

NOT US SAY THE TORIES
THESE ARE TROTSKYITE STORIES

NOT US SAY THE BOSSES
WE WERE COUNTING OUR LOSSES

BUT THE WORKERS HAVE SEEN
AND THE WORKERS WILL JUDGE
IT WAS ALL OF THE THREE
WHO SPILLED
DAVID MOORE'S BLOOD



END TERROR POLICING

Toxteth

The events in Toxteth on Tuesday 28 July, were an explosion of anger over the massive policing of Toxteth and the savage tactics used to break up crowds of youth.

After praising our "brave bobbies" the capitalist press have been forced to expose some of the worst cases of brutality on Toxteth's streets. The 'Sunday Times' spoke of "deliberate and calculated police violence."

On the very night that David Moore was brutally killed by a police landrover driven directly at crowds of people, Mick Blaney was also savagely attacked.

Whilst he himself admits, fighting the police, he was slashed across the groin by a police officer with an 18 inch Machete, yelling "I'll make sure you don't have any more little bastards."

The wound required six stitches in a two inch gash which almost resulted in Blaney being castrated.

Not confining their attacks to those who like Blaney, are more than able to defend themselves, the police have extended their attention to babies and young girls. One 2 year old boy was beaten over the head by a riot baton.

Other incidents reported in the 'Sunday Times' confirm the savage police attacks. One family were awakened by rioting, when a white youth came into their flat looking for somewhere to hide from the police. Minutes later, police officers were hammering at the door. When it was opened, five policemen burst in.

Seeing a half-caste youth, dressed only in underpants, who had not been involved in the riots, they shouted: "Hey you, you black bastard, we'll have you." He was dragged out of the house, and thrown into a police van where he was kicked and punched.

He described his treatment: "They grabbed me by the balls and by the hair and the pain was terrible. I screamed but did not resist." He was charged with threatening behaviour.

Another arrest was described: "There was a police van. Three police officers were on the roof

By
Jimmy Hollinshead

holding a black Rastafarian boy in the air. One officer was holding his hair, the others had a hand each. They had hung him down the side of the van. There were four policemen kicking him in the legs and body, his feet were suspended off the ground...Even now I can't believe what I saw."

To describe the thousands strong police presence on the streets of Toxteth as an "army of occupation" is not to use an emotional phrase, but to state the facts.

Howard Parker, a Liverpool University lecturer and author of a study of relations between police and youth on Merseyside, commented: "Last week they (the police) were instinctively out for revenge."

The Liverpool 8 Defence Committee, backed by Liverpool District Labour Party and Trades Council, together with the Labour Party Young Socialists have called for a national demonstration on August 15th around the call for the sacking of Merseyside Police Chief, Ken Oxford, and democratic control of the police.

The brutal killing of David Moore he described as "a peripheral problem."

The sacking of Ken Oxford in isolation would solve nothing. His replacement would probably be as bad or worse. The labour movement must lead the struggle for democratic control of the police and accountability to the labour and trade union movement and the local community through their elected representatives.

This demonstration must be seen by the movement as part and parcel of the fight against the Tories and their monetarist policies.

The repressive measures

Brixton Resolution

This executive believes:
1. The police who carried out the raid, the officers who ordered it, and the Magistrate who issued the search warrant, should be named and suspended pending a Labour movement inquiry.

2. Full compensation should be granted without delay to all the victims of the raids.

The labour movement must oppose police harassment, the use of CS gas, water-cannon, and rubber bullets, and campaign against repressive laws.

"This Executive deplores the vicious police raids on homes and shops in Railton Road, Brixton, in the early hours of July 15th.

Hundreds of police cordoned off the immediate area and intimidated local residents. Police axed down doors (some of which were unlocked) smashed TV sets and hi-fi equipment, broke windows and furniture, and even damaged a lavatory and water pipes, in the raid (which was supposedly in search of petrol bomb stores).

that are being introduced are not merely for use against the youth and workers of the inner cities, but will be used in the future against the labour movement mobilised around a socialist programme.

The movement as a whole must mobilise for the demonstration, widening out the issues from those of police harassment and the sacking of Ken Oxford.

The events in Toxteth and elsewhere will be repeated again and again, regardless of police presence unless the root causes of the anger of the youth are rooted out.

The rioting has returned in the areas of chronic unemployment and terrible housing. These are the social conditions which led to the riots. The Tories and their Liberal allies are the real criminals. They have condemned working class youth to mass unemployment, deprivation and despair.

The power of the labour and trade union movement must be mobilised to throw out the Tories and replace them with a Labour government committed to socialist policies as the only guarantee against future riots.

Brixton

The executive of the Greater London Labour Party unanimously endorsed a resolution condemning the police raid in Brixton on July 15th [see insert].

The Labour Committee for Defence of Brixton is urging all labour movement bodies to pass similar resolutions. It explains in a leaflet widely circulating in the area:

"The brutal raid on the eleven homes in Railton Road resulted in the destruction of property, brutal treatment of the occupants and the terrorisation of the whole area. Yet where were the sanctimonious denunciations of 'blood and violence' from the gutter press?"

"Even in police terms the operation was a 'failure'. 100 officers were issued with search warrants under the 1972 Drugs Act, although it was claimed they were looking for petrol bombs! Not one petrol bomb was found and just six arrests were made—all in one house—for minor drug offences and one for obstruction.

"There is no excuse for such atrocious behaviour by the police. They set dogs on people, hurled racial abuse and threw a 5-month old baby out of a bed. They smashed a guitar, ripped up carpets and floor boards, slashed beds open and tore clothes to shreds.

"These particularly vicious raids came just three days after the major explosion in the area and in the street—Railton Road—where tension between police and the local population is always at its highest. It was a real provocation.

"The following night barricades of burning cars were set up as a direct response to the raids. The police moved in, arrests were made, including a local councillor and his wife—a community worker and member of the Labour Committee for the Defence of Brixton.

"An even bigger explosion could have followed had it not been for the wide publicity given to the nature of the raids and the possibility of a public outcry against further

Labour Committee

Send us donations, resolutions, requests for speakers, information, etc. to: LCDB c/o RM Boyle, 167 Railton Road, London SE24.

repressive measures. Otherwise this would have provided the police and the Tories with a chance to try out new weaponry—plastic bullets, water cannon...even more troops.

"This would not have been the first time Brixton had been used for police experiments in military-style control over civilian populations. It was the first place to experience, in 1978, a full-scale stop and search operation conducted by a specially trained and separate force—the Special Patrol Group. After the events of April 10th and 11th this year, the whole area was cordoned off and put under surveillance on a massive scale.

No one is against the prevention and detection of crime—that is the legitimate function of the police. But the systematic harassment of a whole community cannot be condoned. The police must be made accountable to the community and its elected representatives. The Labour Committee for the Defence of Brixton therefore fully supports the GLC's new police committee in its efforts to remove control of London's police force from the Home Secretary.

The Labour Committee for the Defence of Brixton has also campaigned energetically for the withdrawal of the massive police presence in the area, for the disbandment of the SPG and for a united struggle to bring about lasting changes in social conditions in the area.

We have been assisting

defendants, raising funds and trying to monitor the level of policing—meeting every week for the past 3 months. We have no confidence that the proposed police inquiry into the Railton Road events will come up with a satisfactory solution. Nor did we have any faith in the outcome of the official inquiry set up to examine the April upheavals, presided over by a "Law Lord". Evidence given to Scarman was proving harmful to defendants, who attempted to get proceedings stopped.

But on the day Lord Scarman finished sitting in the Town Hall, and a couple of days after the MP John Fraser has asked Scarman to investigate allegations of police involvement in drugs rackets in the Railton Road area, it seemed as if the boot was being put in.

Many brutal and arbitrary arrests have been made. In some cases innocent bystanders were being taken in as if the new Riot Act had already been passed! Enormous pressure was being brought to bear to get pleas of 'guilty'. Bail was being refused and parents not allowed access to their children.

Many defendants have not had solicitors to help them—a basic right under the law, and large numbers have been charged under the Public Order Act which means no recourse to a jury. The "summary courts" demanded by the right-wing in the Tory Party have virtually been operating! Some kids have been sentenced to 6 months for just shouting! The labour movement must protest at this rough 'justice'.

This kind of terror policing must cease! Active members of the labour movement know they, too, could well become the victims of similar raids, and vicious sentences."

The labour movement must take up this issue. Already, the Joint shop Stewards Committee at Cow Industrial Polymers and the Croydon branch of the G&MWU have passed similar resolutions to the policy adopted by the GLLP Executive.

COVENTRY



BOYCOTT REFERENDUM! FIGHT THE TORIES!

Michael Heseltine has threatened 'rebel' Labour councils that he might use the weapon of referendum to push through savage cuts in local authority spending.

Few people would have guessed such a referendum would be initiated by a Labour council.

But this is exactly what the right wing controlled Coventry Labour council has done. On 27 August, working people in Coventry will be asked: 'Do you want rate rises, or do you want cuts in services?—and will be offered no alternative.

Such a 'choice', is no choice and places the credibility of Coventry's labour movement in the hands of the Tory media such as the local 'Evening Telegraph'.

District Labour Party policy stands for opposition to both cuts in jobs and services and to rate rises. It calls for a campaign within the labour movement to fight the Tory attacks.

In response to the referendum, the recently formed 'Coventry Labour Left' met last Sunday, determined to campaign in the Coventry labour movement on party policy and to let the people of Coventry know that the Labour Party they elected is still fighting for their interests.

Sunday's meeting decided to campaign for a boycott of the referendum. A city-wide leaflet will put forward the District Labour Party policy.

It calls on all unions, tenants associations, Constituency parties and wards to support the campaign. An ad hoc committee representing the left in each of the city's Constituency parties and the 12 'rebel' councillors has been formed to help organise the campaign.

It is hoped that many branches in public sector unions and Constituency parties will also support this campaign to protect jobs and services.

The announcement of the referendum without any notification, let alone consultation is only the latest in a long line of manoeuvres and snubs by the Labour Group towards local parties and public sector unions.

Party policy has been continually sabotaged by the majority Labour group. So much so that 12 Labour councillors who upheld that policy were expelled from the Labour group.

The referendum is essentially seen as a back door implementation of Tory cuts. Over the last months the Labour group has been discussing massive cuts as their response to Heseltine's latest attacks. The District Party had reaffirmed its

By Eddie Doveton

(Ad Hoc Committee and Coventry SW Labour Party)

opposition to cuts and once again called for a campaign.

The Labour group's answer was to ignore this and call the referendum. The referendum (estimated cost £88,000—which would buy a lot of school meals and save over 20 public sector jobs), is being eagerly watched by the national press who see Coventry as a testing ground for another weapon to force cuts on working people.

It is thus doubly criminal that such a measure has been initiated by a Labour council.

The right wing mandarins of the Labour group clearly calculate as indeed Heseltine and Thatcher had that a referendum posing either cuts in services—which may or may not directly affect the individual, is a sure winner against rate rises where a cut in living standards can be immediately directly calculated.

In the absence of a viable alternative, of opposition from the labour movement, a referendum is a means to legitimise cuts and run down jobs in the public sector.

That cuts also mean job losses highlights the crucial importance of support and involvement of public sector unions. The ad hoc committee will be contacting local branches and work places to hold meetings with Labour left speakers with Labour Party policy and asking for both material and financial aid.

Support by these workers will determine the extent to which the campaign will be successful.

Coventry District Labour Party again meets next week when attempts will be made to halt the referendum altogether. Even if such a referendum is adopted by the party the Labour group may again ignore its decision.

If this is the case, the campaign initiated by the Coventry Labour left will be vital.



Protest in Solihull against cuts last February. Coventry's Labour council must not be allowed to introduce cuts by the back door

STREET CORNER SOCIALISM -

Glasgow

By Ian O'Hara

On Saturday 25 July around fifty members of local Labour Party Young Socialist branches, took over the centre of Argyll Street in Glasgow, the main shopping precinct, to hold a very successful street meeting.

A leaflet was drawn up for the event, and placards were put up around the shopping area.

A bookstall was set up and then various YS speakers used megaphones to outline the programme of the Young Socialists, our attitude towards YOPs, youth unemployment, the riots and the Royal Wedding scandal. Many young people stopped to listen to our ideas.

Thatcher herself turned up [well, one YS member dressed in similar attire!] and tried to justify why the Tories had put millions on the dole and were murdering the future for youth in Strathclyde.

The event was important

due to the need to explain our views on the recent riots which the Tories and Liberals blamed on "greedy youth" and "political agitators".

There was much sympathy for our ideas in general, for example one old lady I talked to complained about how the Tories had conned people into voting for them with false promises.

The success of the event was evident from the sales of 'Militant' and 'Socialist Youth'. 128 papers were sold, while 25-30 names were collected for the LPYS.

All areas should attempt to "go public" with the use of street meetings to attract new members and get the ideas of socialism across to the youth.

Blyth

Over the last couple of months Blyth and Cramlington sold papers, given out leaflets plus general recruitment activities in Blyth market place

on Saturday morning.

The response has grown to about 20 papers being sold each Saturday, many regulars. Where previously many people would have ignored us, now people take our politics seriously, and from time to time stop for a chat.

The key to success is consistency linked with a thoroughly outgoing attitude. Last Saturday for instance apart from selling 16 Militants, a dozen 'Not Wanted' posters and numerous stickers we were involved in a couple of very lively arguments.

In both cases quite a crowd began to congregate around us with the vast majority supporting the arguments put by the LPYS.

The second person raised the argument of the unemployed being there by choice. But this age old garbage pushed by Thatcher & Co received no agreement from the crowd.

In fact one passer-by, hearing these comments, approached me pointing out that there was probably some four million unemployed taking into account many who aren't registered and then promptly bought a Militant.

We broke for lunch and on our way to the pub received a visit from the local police. One of the characters

we had been arguing with earlier, failing to win any of his arguments, had placed a complaint with the police hoping to get us moved on.

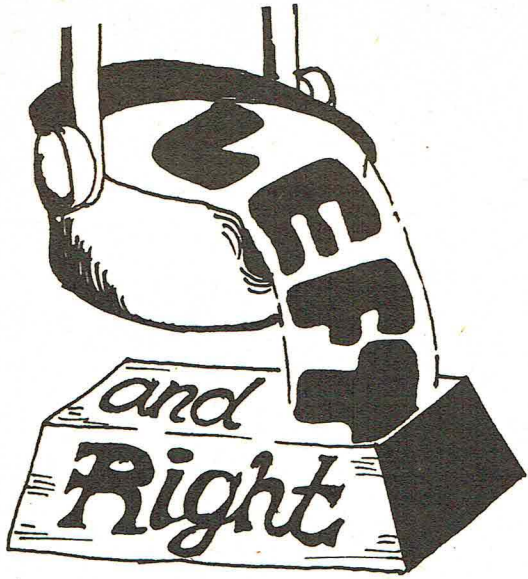
The boys in blue in true democratic style informed us that we were breaking the law in causing an obstruction and would have to move on.

After a brief lunch we decided the only solution would be to go back into the Market Place in the afternoon. Within half an hour we received another visit from two special constables. This time the police preferred the undercover approach rather than direct confrontation.

Walking past us, they stood behind a bush some 20 yards away. This caused great amusement to us all and of course we carried on selling papers and discussing with the shoppers.

We presume that they saw this situation as a potential riot but were soon disappointed and disappeared out of sight. It will be instructive to see the police response when we start holding street meetings.

By Peter Marsden
(Secretary, Blyth LPYS)



Members of the Labour Party in constituencies with right-wing Labour MPs may have thought that their representatives were no longer capable of getting angry. After all with three million on the dole, their attacks on the Tory government seem rather muted. Don't worry, they can still get absolutely furious.

At a recent weekly meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party, Ron Hayward, General Secretary of the Labour Party, proposed that the levy paid by Labour MPs to the Party should be raised from £50 to £65 a year. MPs earn just under £14,000 a year and owe their places to the hard work done by Labour Party members.

According to Tribune though, many MPs don't see it like that. There were howls of rage and one MP fulminated against giving money to "subsidise militants and extremists". Perhaps, having got their adrenalin going at the thought of their money going to the Labour Party, we might get a bit more action against unemployment, local government cuts etc. Perhaps.

The England cricket team's two last minute Test wins have clearly only come just in time to save the moral fibre of the nation, now the Wedding is over. At the beginning of the cricket season, a correspondent to the 'Times' saw dreadful omens when cricketers left the field because of the cold weather.

He wrote "It would not have done for Fred Lillywhite's England team who in 1859 shrugged off the intervention of a snow storm to go on and beat a whole 22 of the United States and Canada at Rochester NY, despite having to wear greatcoats, mufflers and gloves to do so. No wonder", the correspondent writes, "we cannot beat the West Indies when moral fibre is so lacking."

Watch the Letters Page of the 'Times' for letters proving that after Botham, British capitalism can now reconquer the Empire, get the first man on Mars—and keep the working class in its place.

The BBC prides itself on "political balance". This means for instance that equal weight is supposed to be given to both Tory and Labour viewpoints on radio and television. What kind of 'Labour' viewpoint is pushed is of course a different matter. Tony Benn and even more the 'Militant' have come not to expect fair dealing from the BBC.

Recent events show in what direction their 'balance' is weighted. BBC director general Sir Ian Trethowan has vetoed the possible choice of anti-nuclear weapons campaigner Professor EP Thompson, one of the most respected historians in the country to give the prestigious Dimpleby Lectures this year. Suggested replacements were well known thinkers Edward Heath, a Tory ex-Prime Minister and Lord Dacre [just a Tory, well dash it, isn't that enough?].

Now the Tory chairman of the BBC George Howard has been joined by ex-'Times' editor and failed Tory candidate, William Rees Mogg as vice-chairman. The BBC hierarchy deny political motives. Thompson just wasn't "the right kind of person" and only a very left kind of person would insinuate that having two Tories at the top of the BBC was in any way unbalanced.

The 'Sunday Telegraph' reported [2 August] on an American TV programme on the morning of That Wedding. Between fawning over royalty and rejoicing over the end of the baseball strike, they interviewed a certain David Owen, Social Democrat.

"I don't claim to have been a brilliant Foreign Secretary" said the erstwhile friend of the Shah of Iran. He didn't claim to have an answer to the dole queues either. Even under a Social Democratic government, "unemployment would still be about two million." You won't hear Dr Owen making admissions like that on the BBC.

'When they read the Riot Act'

By
Margaret Creear
(Heywood and Royton
Labour Party)

With the possibility of the Riot Act being resurrected, a local paper in Oldham dug up some examples of its use in the past.

As the writer says "the similarities between the summer of 1842 and what is happening now is striking."

Accounts of the time describe how "the population of the manufacturing districts was in an extremely excited state owing to the occurrence of another period of commercial embarrassment and to the widely extended prevalence of ultra-radical principles."

"The state of a large body of the working classes of Oldham at this time was heart rending. Groups of idlers stood on the streets, their faces haggard with famine.... Each man had his own tale of sorrow to tell, complicated details of misery and suffering. "We want not charity but employment" was their universal declaration."

Those still in work were suffering declining living standards as wages were cut and the price of bread rose.

On 11 July a mass meeting took place and a strike of spinners and weavers was called around the slogan "A fair days pay for a fair days work"

The next day the magistrates called in the army on the grounds that the mass meeting had actually been a procession (there were dark hints of 'outside agitators') and that many had been armed with "offensive weapons".

The strike went on for weeks whilst the army strut-

life imprisonment or transportation. That together with starvation and the threat of troops being used against pickets, broke the strike. There were no Wakes holidays that year and hundreds were victimised.

No doubt it's such struggles which are at the

movement a hundred times stronger and able, with firm action, to stop such an act coming on the statute books.

But even in those days repression never succeeded in crushing the working class. The workers who lost this particular fight went on to build their trade



ted around the town. On 24 August a mass picket was held at the Albion and Greenville mills to prevent scab labour going in.

The Riot Act was read, threatening the strikers with

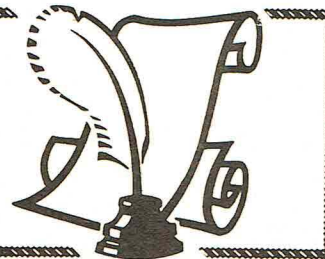
forefront of the Tories' minds when they raise the possibility of a new Riot Act as part of their answer to another period of "commercial embarrassment".

Today they face a labour

union organisations and to be active in the creation of the trades councils.

As the local paper put it "authority had won—until the next time."

COURT CIRCULAR



Well, first of all sorry about the absence of the court circular last week. I was so overcome with emotion I couldn't put pen to paper.

But I've calmed down now so let's see if I can answer some of the nonsense and lies put out by you Trots.

It's painful to have to bother—in the good old days one could just tell the plebs to bow and scrape to the monarchy and that was that. These days we have to excuse it, as if their was something wrong with inheriting wealth and power! "It's good for the country, brings in all that tourist money"; all that rot we have to come out with.

So here goes. Well, to be honest the Wedding did cost a few bob. When I said it brings in tourist money, this wasn't actually the case for St Paul's. Having it shut to the public for three days meant it lost £12,500.

Then there was security. This cost £300,000—but since we lost the Empire the Armed Forces have to practice doing something. Dash it, Northern Ireland's expensive too, you know.

Oh yes, the honeymoon.

I know it's costing half a million, but try to think of it as building Britain's prestige in the world's eyes, and strengthening the nation's diplomatic ties. Why, look at Spain.

And anyway, it meant we had to tidy London up a bit—we spent £50,000 sprucing up the City. Not that Hackney or Deptford saw much of that, but they won't miss what they've never had, and no tourist would be seen dead there anyway!

And we brought work to the naval dockyard in Chatham. Not actually shipbuilding, just baking the wedding cake, at a cost of £10,000. But the naval dock workers must understand these are changing times. Boiler-makers and riggers must realise there's a future for them in pastry making.

And please don't start whining that you, the taxpayer, have to pay for all this. Think of it as an investment.

You're always complaining about lack of investment. Look how much money it's brought in to the country.

When I say 'the country' I mean the pockets of the rich. You taxpayers won't see a penny of it, directly, but it will trickle down in

new jobs, maybe. One day.

Before, I said the Wedding would bring in over £400 million in trade and tourism. It now seems it will only be £200 million. I can't understand why patriotism should suffer just because of a recession. Still, £200 million is still a pretty penny which should prove the point about the Royals being good for Britain.

I say 'should', because that damned roundhead Willie Hamilton has opened his trap. The wretched person complained that by giving the lower orders a day off to celebrate, it cost us about £800 million in lost production!

In reality 'the country' didn't make a bloody penny out of the Wedding! But for God's sake don't tell the plebs that.

Mind you, our chaps in Fleet Street did an excellent job in leaving the masses in a state of shell shock, with its perpetual barrage of Royal Wedding trivia. The 'Economist' (August 7) observed our press's desired effect: "... most Britons would still democratically assume it is normal to scoff at old earls sitting on ancient acres and sending their daughters to young ladies' schools that do not stretch students up to even O-level status.

"Yet there in a glass coach, the product of precisely such a background and school career was taking a delighted nation by storm."

Also that the "humble people whose Wednesday Wedding vigil showed again that 'so long as the human heart is strong and the human reason weak, royalty will be strong because it appeals to diffused feeling, and republics weak because they appeal to the understanding."

So you see. You reds must see the logic of it. Keep up a daily diet of intense media coverage, and give the plebs a day off from their dreary lives.

Hold a glorious spectacle in these days of doom and gloom at the height of the tourist season (though that was a bit of a washout) it's in the school hols, you can keep the pubs open all day.

You see, you're on to a winner. And of course it all keeps the mob's mind off such nastiness as mass unemployment or people getting killed by the police.

But having said all this, I was most put out by the attitude of the Royals to the present I sent them. It was a basalt bust of the Chosen One made by Wedgewood, costing £2,000. But they sent it back. Said it reminded them of that awful man Benn.

By Beatrice Windsor

YOPS

Cheap labour - no jobs



National protest by job scheme youth, April '81 in London
Photo: John Woulfe

"Money I can't give a teenager. A start in life I can."

That is how the boss of 'Autoline' justified the Youth Opportunities Programme, in a national advertising campaign.

Carrying coffins and cleaning the hearse is the start given to John Knowles—for a princely sum of £23.50 a week. The firm that employed him, along with another YOP worker, has just made two full time workers redundant!

Why bother paying full-timers, when you can get YOP workers paid for by the government.

A recent 'Newsnight' television programme exposed the exploitation of YOPs when interviewing the funeral parlour manager:—

"Two full time staff have been sacked and you have taken on one or possibly two YOPs...."

"Oh that's different altogether! The sacked workers

By Peter Mumford
(Erith and Crayford LPYS)

were a different situation completely!"

"They were made redundant though?"

"Yes"

"Because of the recession?"

"Yes"

"And because of the recession you have got an extra pair of hands?"

"Yes"

"Which you don't pay for?"

"No we don't...but it gives the boy a chance to witness a work experience programme."

Over half the schemes investigated by the programme showed abuse by the bosses. A farmer employed both his sons on work experience programmes!

In a hairdressing salon, seven 'trainees' had been taken on, mainly washing hair and sweeping the floor. After their six month course

all were thrown back onto the dole.

YOPs means cheap labour for the bosses, and lower unemployment figures for the Tory government. Already 305,000 are on government training schemes, not recorded as unemployed.

Thousands more will be joining the dole queue over the summer, although school leavers cannot claim benefit till September! Including these, even official figures would make it over three and a half million without work.

Now James Prior, misnamed Employment minister, is planning to extend the scheme. Not satisfied with using over 300,000 youth as cheap labour for the parasites who have destroyed 1¼ million jobs in twelve months, he is now proposing to create another 100,000 plus places by Christmas.

Prior's new plan is to make all 16 year old school leavers do one year's cheap labour. It used to be convicts who were sentenced to hard labour!

IRISH COALITION BARES ITS TEETH

On 21 July the new coalition government in the south of Ireland introduced a savage budget.

At a stroke it will reduce by ten per cent, the living standards of the average working class family.

Transport goes up by 25%, postal charges by 20%, electricity by at least 12%. Petrol goes up by thirteen pence a gallon.

Value Added Tax, paid on most goods except food, goes up from 10% to 15%. A day later it was announced that mortgage subsidies would be removed, increasing average monthly repayments by £20.

Current public expenditure is to be cut by £148 million in 1981. This, with other expenditure cuts, will have a devastating effect on what is still a small economy.

No capital taxation was introduced in the budget: only £5 million is to be raised

By Joe Higgins
(Irish Labour Party, Administrative Council)

ed this year in a special levy on the banks. This has delighted the bankers, whose shares rose immediately on the stock exchange.

Had the levy been applied even at the rate imposed by Thatcher on the British banks, the amount raised would have been £38 million.

This budget has quickly revealed the nature of the new coalition government. The tragedy is that four Labour ministers sit in the cabinet with Fine Gael, a party financed and supported by big business.

At the behest of its leaders, the Labour Party decided by a 3 to 2 vote to enter coalition, at the special Party conference on 28 June. This leaves the second capitalist Party, Fianna Fail, to masquerade as the opposition.

At that conference, warnings were given, notably by

the Marxist wing of the Party, that being part of a big business-dominated government would inevitably make Labour an accomplice in viciously attacking working class living standards. These warnings have been dramatically vindicated less than one month later.

The measures in the budget have been demanded by the leading spokespeople of Irish capitalism for several months.

The government owes equivalent to 95% of the gross national product for one year, to foreign and domestic financiers. The attempt to push the effects of recession into the future by massive borrowing has finally re-bounded.

The Fine Gael finance minister has promised more of the same for the annual budget next January. But these measures will only deepen the crisis.

Unemployment, already over 10%, will rise: all indications are that by the mid-eighties it will reach the horror heights of 20%. Inflation will rise to

Much of the work is no better than breaking rocks either: counting lampposts, cleaning beaches, or spending all day stacking shelves in a supermarket.

This year four out of every five 'trained' on YOPs will return straight to the dole after their six month stint.

The Manpower Services Commission has had to stop some schemes run by Tesco and the Co-op. In the Midlands alone 100 firms have been ejected for using it as cheap labour.

This is the scheme Prior wants to extend! The bosses' appetite has been whetted, and they want more!

Real apprenticeships are almost non-existent. 'The Sunday Times' recently reported intake of apprenticeships has dropped by 25% on last year's meagre figures.

The Labour Party Young Socialists say one million youth on the dole is lunacy. Enormous potential is being wasted—youth are being thrown on the scrapheap at sixteen, when there is a desperate need for new houses, hospitals, schools and leisure facilities.

Every youth should be entitled to decent training. We say YOPs should be extended into a useful programme of public works, with a guaranteed job for every school leaver, to help mop up unemployment and create necessary services.

All trainees should be given full trade union rights and rates of pay.

As long as society is run for profit, youth will be seen as cheap labour and a source of exploitation for the bosses. Only if we sweep aside this decaying system will we guarantee decent jobs, rates of pay and training for all.

LPYS takes up fight

In the North of England NUPE, the public employees' union, is calling a 24-hour Day of Action over YOP wages and conditions in their district.

The action on 28 August has the full backing of the Labour Party Young Socialists, who have already produced a leaflet calling for support [see below].

The LPYS are calling on unions around the country to organise similar protests.

On 28 August every area should take protest action. The LPYS must be to the fore arguing for the organisation of demonstrations, pickets and rallies.

In each town the LPYS branch will call meetings to try and get YOPsters together to discuss the struggle for decent wages and conditions. NUPE have informed all their district officers that the LPYS is prepared to help the unionisation of YOPsters—so there must be no delay.

Already the LPYS in Hull have organised a public meeting sponsored by the T&GWU & NUPE, with union and LPYS speakers. The Northern Region LPYS branches are visiting YOP schemes and working with some of the YOPsters who

are already organised into trade unions.

The unions have been visited in Liverpool and are likely to back the LPYS call for strike action in the area. The LPYS have organised three meetings and are working with the T&GWU officials to step up the YOP movement, around the demands for:—

★ Full trade union rights and rates of pay on YOPS

★ Free travel to work for YOPS

★ Expand YOPS into a massive scheme of useful public works under trade union control

★ A guaranteed job for all trainees

★ Build support for August 28th

The LPYS YOPS Day of Action is available at £2.50 per thousand [plus postage] from A. Bevan, 150 Walworth Road, London SE17.

somewhere near 23% this year, eroding living standards still further.

Irish capitalism has two options: it can borrow more or cut spending further. Either policy will worsen the situation.

Only the full programme of socialism, taking the commanding sector of the economy into public ownership, and making possible a socialist plan of production with workers' democracy at all levels, can solve the crisis once and for all. But the coalition has no such programme.

It cannot be long before this government meets stonewall resistance from the trade union movement. With such an attack on their living wage, workers are in no mood to accept the pay freeze being demanded by the employers organisations.

As the present phase of the national agreement on wages draws to a close, ma-

nor confrontations are likely to emerge. Already bus workers in the major cities are on strike.

Workers threatened with redundancies have planned to occupy their workplaces, demonstrating the mounting anger and combativity.

The coalition government, which does not have an overall majority in the Dail (parliament) will be rocked by the impending industrial battles.

Union leaders, under intense pressure from the ranks, unanimously opposed the Labour Party entering the government. They can see the storm gathering.

The government cannot survive the four years predicted by the Labour leaders. The Labour Party, already down to 9.9% of the national vote due to the disastrous coalition policies of the last eleven years, will be further discredited.

The active ranks of the Party understand this. They

have already moved decisively to the left, in opposition to the Party leadership. The budget will intensify the opposition.

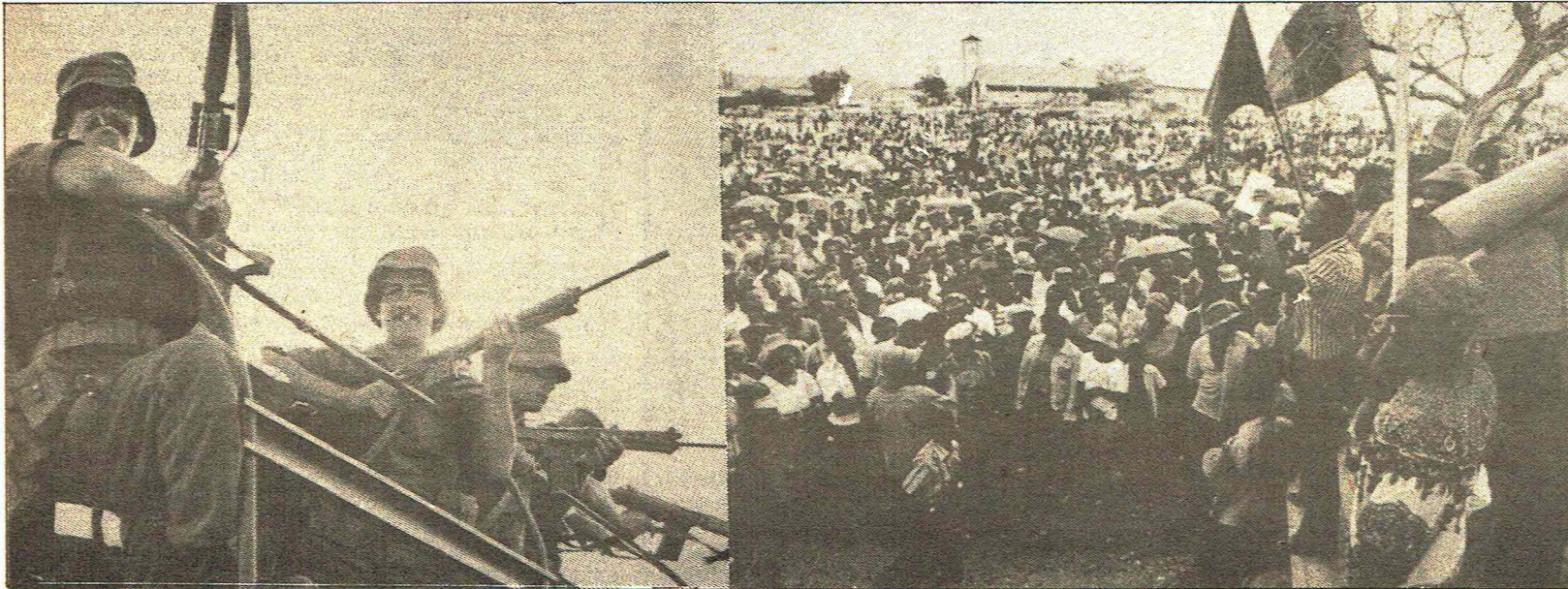
Whether Labour breaks with the coalition in the next few months, or it takes a year or two more, it is inevitable that the conclusion of Labour's ranks will be outright rejection of alliances with capitalist parties and the beginning of an independent struggle on socialist policies. This will very quickly galvanise the active trade unionists, youth and the broad ranks of the working class.

Vigorous opposition, offering a clear alternative to the bankrupt capitalist politicians and the crisis-torn economy they seek to defend, would restore Labour's support. The working class of Ireland could then put in power a majority Labour government charged with changing society.

NAMIBIA:

NO DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION

By Glenys
Ingham



SA troops bolstering the rule of the monopolies

SWAPO meeting in Katatura township, Windhoek

The past month has seen a new escalation of the struggle in Namibia with intensive South African attacks on SWAPO guerilla bases in Southern Angola.

The South African 'Financial Mail' (17 July) sees these murderous raids as a "hopeful sign that Pretoria is preparing for a settlement." New moves are expected by the Reagan administration in the USA to start negotiations over "independence" for Namibia. Pretoria, by hitting at SWAPO, hopes to put the "internal parties" (the middle class leaders tolerated by the regime) "in the strongest possible position to win the independence election."

What are the prospects for a 'solution' along the lines hoped for by the imperialists in Washington and Pretoria? Is it likely that genuine independence for Namibia will be conceded in new rounds of negotiations?

Eight years ago Southern Africa seemed an impregnable fortress of white supremacy. Mozambique and Angola were still under the heel of Portuguese colonialism which has ruled for five centuries.

Now landlordism and capitalism have been overthrown in these countries and the Smith regime has been toppled in Zimbabwe. This in turn gave an enormous impetus to the struggle in Namibia.

South Africa was given a mandate over Namibia in the carve-up of the German Empire after the First World War. The United Nations allowed this to continue until the rising pressure of the masses in the independent African countries forced it to revoke the mandate.

In 1971 the International Court of Justice declared that South Africa was illegally occupying Namibia. In 1970 and 1971 there were three Security Council resolutions demanding that South Africa remove its army and government from Namibia.

The peak of the verbal war against South Africa

was reached in 1976, at a time when Soweto was blazing, when the South African army had been forced from Angola and the hatred of working people the world over was focused on the apartheid regime. The imperialists at this time did not want to be seen supporting that regime too closely.

A resolution passed by the UN in that year called for the immediate withdrawal of the apartheid army and officials from Namibia. Free and fair elections were then to be held by the United Nations and an independent government formed.

The UN even decided that if South Africa failed to withdraw, full sanctions would be implemented.

But every resolution by the UN since 1976 has retreated from this position.

South Africa knew all along the talk of sanctions was pure bluff. Namibia is said to have the largest uranium resources in the world and could soon be the largest uranium producer outside the US and Canada.

The Western Contact Group countries (USA, Britain, France, West Germany, and Canada) which are trying to organise a settlement between South Africa and the main black nationalist organisation, SWAPO, can hardly be said to be impartial. In fact, the capitalists in these countries jointly own 70% of the mining capital invested in Namibia!

Profits are so enormous that the three mining monopolies who control the Namibian economy, have a return on capital of 30-40%. In other words it only takes about 3 years to get back in profits all they have invested.

The Western governments were quite complacent about South African control until the late 1960s when SWAPO (South West African People's Organisation) launched a guerilla

the country.

SWAPO has over 7,000 men and women under arms. 20,000 South African troops at a cost of \$1.5 million a day are employed against them.

SWAPO undoubtedly has the mass support of the Namibian population. For this reason imperialism is frantically trying to woo the SWAPO leaders into their fold.

The United Nations, by recognising SWAPO as the sole representative of the Namibian people tried to force the hand of the South African government. The Western Contact Group, using the UN machinery, fear the obtuseness of South Africa could lead to a total defeat for capitalism.

Also the Russian bureaucracy, while backing the guerilla struggle, does not want to see the situation escalate into a full-scale revolutionary crisis that could place the working class in control of the country.

But for the Namibian masses, independence cannot be merely a diplomatic question, to be sorted out around the negotiating table with the imperialist powers.

In the face of the formidable South African state machine, backed by the Western powers, there is no prospect of the SWAPO gaining a decisive victory by military struggle alone. The Namibian struggle for national liberation—unlike Zimbabwe—is being fought directly against the power of the South African ruling class. It can be won only by crippling the South African state—and this must involve a combined struggle of the working people in Namibia and in South Africa itself.

The struggle for political freedom is at the same time a struggle for an end to poverty and exploitation.

Once in power, the SWAPO leaders will have to maintain the support of the freedom fighters and of the workers and peasants who will want a better society to come from their sacrifices.

A first demand for the genuine independence of Namibia is the withdrawal of South African troops. Yet

this question presents the imperialists with very serious problems.

Apart from the narrow layer of whites, the capitalists have scarcely any basis of support in Namibia. The withdrawal of the South African military would create a power vacuum which, under present conditions, would be filled by SWAPO resting on its own military forces and the support of the mass of the people.

Such a victory for SWAPO, in turn, would have an enormous effect on the black workers of South Africa itself.

In the face of these revolutionary pressures, the South African regime has put forward various schemes aimed at giving Namibia nominal independence while in reality preserving it as a client state.

They knew they could count on more open support from the Reagan administration in the USA.

The struggle for freedom from South African rule is at the same time a struggle to end exploitation by the Western monopolies and establish democratic workers' rule

One US Assistant Secretary of State announced that the US was negotiating closer military ties with South Africa and would drop its efforts for Namibian independence if it felt prospects for a settlement were remote. Like South Africa, Reagan is vitally concerned with defending capitalist interests against the struggle of the working people.

The imperialists are making serious efforts to strengthen the basis of their own state power in Namibia by reinforcing the police and military forces and forced conscription for all races. Their aim is to eliminate

SWAPO as an independent military force that could form the basis of an alternative state machine.

It is these imperialist pressures which lead to the ambiguity of the UN resolutions, which leave the question of state power in a future independent Namibia very unclear.

Now the South Africans are insisting that there 'st be constitutional talks to discuss 'federalism', which means the consolidation of 'bantustans' (black labour reserves disguised as 'sovereign states') as in South Africa. Guarantees of white privilege and blocking arrangements against the majority are also being demanded.

South Africa is determined to promote the 'internal' parties (i.e. the parties sponsored by the regime), particularly the so-called Democratic Turnhalle Alliance. South Africa realises that with its present label of 'stooge party', the DTA stands little chance of winning an election against SWAPO.

South African intransigence led to the collapse of the Geneva peace talks in January. But over the last months America has attempted to revive the talks and sent a top delegation to Southern Africa.

According to leaked US government documents reported in the press, the policy of the Reagan administration is to reverse the UN plan for an elected constituent assembly. Instead they would like to see a Lancaster House-type conference of hand-picked leaders to write the constitution of an independent Namibia behind closed doors, and give the South African government 'policeman' status in the country.

So bankrupt was this position, however, that the US and the rest of the 'Western 5' are now again forced to speak of the need for a solution "in accordance with Resolution 435".

When asked about a possible SWAPO election victory under the UN plan, Botha told America's Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Chester

Crocker: "Nujoma (President of SWAPO) will nationalise the whole place and cause upheaval and civil war involving South Africa. We will have to invade Namibia and other countries as well.

"We are pleading with you to see the dangers of a wrong solution in Namibia. It would be better to have a low-level conflict there indefinitely than to have a civil war escalating into a general conflagration." ('Financial Times', 30 May '81).

Of course the US and British governments, unwilling to forfeit their plunder of Namibia, will inevitably choose the course of propping up the hated regime.

But unfortunately there are signs that the SWAPO leadership is bending under pressure from the imperialist powers and probably also the Russian bureaucracy which wants the struggle in Namibia to be kept within 'safe' limits.

Early in June, Sam Nujoma made it known that SWAPO has abandoned its opposition to guaranteeing the property and privileges of the white minority. This spells a reversal of SWAPO's 1976 programme for nationalising the monopolies which dominate the country, and suggests a willingness to accept 'independence' on the capitalists' terms.

Such a policy can offer no real solution to the Namibian masses who are suffering hardship and oppression precisely as a result of exploitation by those same monopolies.

Leadership

Militants in Namibia, especially the youth, will expect SWAPO to come forward with a fighting socialist programme. Instead of relying on UN diplomacy with the imperialists, its task is to organise the guerillas together with the mass of the workers and peasants to fight with every available weapon, including the general strike, for genuine independence not only from South African rule but also from the grip of the monopolies operating in Namibia itself.

Such a struggle cannot be confined to Namibia alone. The withdrawal of the South African army is unlikely except in the context of a revolutionary crisis throughout South Africa and Namibia, when the ruling class may have no alternative but to beat a tactical retreat. The monopolies and landowners will be expropriated only through common struggle with the powerful black working class of South Africa.

What is needed in Namibia is a Marxist leadership of the workers, guerillas and peasants that will appeal to the masses both in Namibia and in South Africa, calling for the nationalisation and planning of the Namibian economy under workers' control and management, and above all linking up with the South African workers in the struggle for a Federation of Socialist States of Southern Africa in which an independent Namibia could flourish. Only on this basis will SWAPO be able to meet the revolutionary expectations of the workers, peasants and youth who will look to it for leadership in the critical period ahead.

Letters

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

MILITANT, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

100,000 houses unbuilt

Dear Comrades

How many of you are homeless? Living in slums? Unemployed? Never fear—your troubles are over.

The *Sunday Times* of 12 June 1981 showed a picture of eight acres of bricks (seventy million in all), standing 12 feet high, just part of the London Brick Company's stockpile of 490 million bricks. They would, so it appears, "make 50,000 houses or a new city the size of Derby."

In Britain as a whole there are enough bricks already made to build 100,000 three-bedroomed detached houses (although you'd need some of the 1,100,000 tonnes of cement available as well).

There are 425,000 unem-



Queuing for council homes in Hackney

ployed building workers in Britain. Why don't we reduce unemployment, build decent homes and solve homelessness?

No, the Tories have the answer—the market

economy.

I mean, would you like to see our great country, based on profit and individual 'freedom', turned into one of anarchy by left-wing extremists, just to solve a few

problems? Ridiculous!

Forward to socialism!
Yours fraternally
Dave Webb
Hackney South LPYS

Electoral reaction

Dear Comrades

The predictable response to the recent local government elections in England and Wales which saw a landslide vote in favour of the Labour party was the call for electoral reform. This age-old manoeuvre trotted out in times of desperation will find a different cutting edge over the next few years.

With the rejection of the Tories at present, and the new darlings of the bosses and their kept press the SDP now coming to the fore, we can see an added incentive. Only last week a columnist in the *Financial Times* was calling on the Tories, Liberals, SDP and right-wing Labour to join forces on this issue since it could prevent left-wing Labour representatives from becoming MPs.

Big business is backing the SDP to the tune of £15 million. The SDP and Liberals have been keen to deny any such backing and scotched the idea of money raising for electoral reform.

The Chief Executive of the Electoral Reform Society threw its hands up in horror at such an idea. The National Committee for Electoral Reform (although a more campaigning group than the Electoral Reform Society) is also keen to maintain its "independence".

I wonder what they will say to the forthcoming cheque for £5,000 from Marks and Spencers. After all they are an independent firm. They 'independently' give advice to the the Thatcher government and 'independently' gave £20,000 to the Tory Party last year.

Electoral reform? For whose interests?

Fraternally
David Churchley

For King, Country and capitalism

Dear Militant

In 1914 the capitalist class whipped up a frenzy of propaganda. Patriotic appeals were made to workers to fight for king and country. Freedom, democracy and the empire had to be defended against the German foe.

My mother still has a cutting from the local paper of the time. It shows photos of five young brothers, all in uniform. The caption reads 'A Patriotic Family'.

Four years later only two of the five brothers came back from the war. Three had died in the trenches. One returned with his jaw blown off.

The fifth, my grandfather, was gassed and permanently disabled. He never worked again and died a few years later of his wounds. My grandmother was left a widow and supported seven children by taking in washing.

In 1981 the capitalist class are again whipping up a barrage of propaganda.

Again working people are being urged to forget their grievances against the rulers of this 'just and democratic land'.

The excuse this time is not a war but a marriage, that of Prince Charles. This parasite is a representative of the same class who my grandfather and his brothers were conned into fighting and dying for.

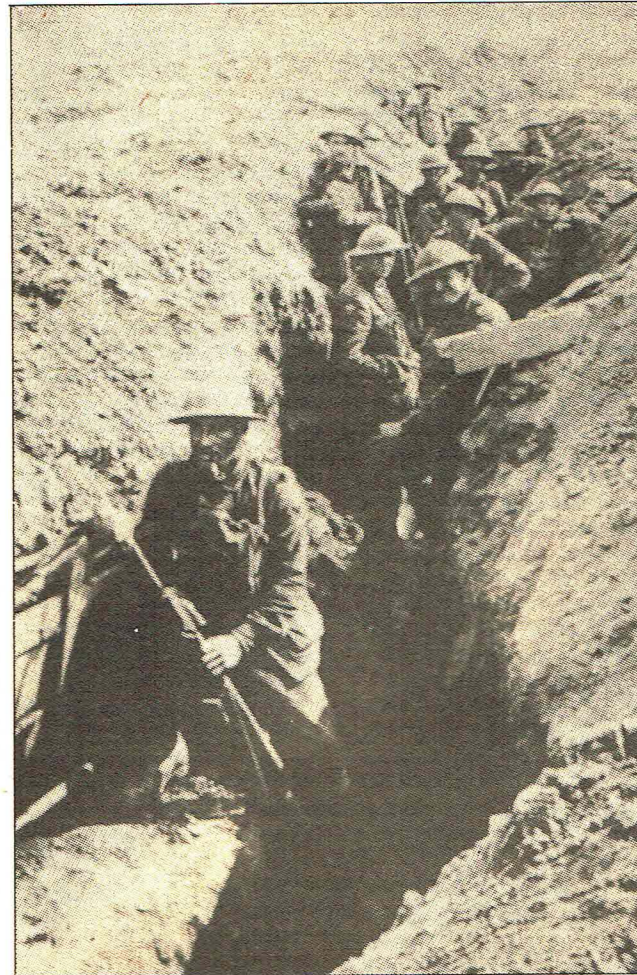
While this royal moron gallivants around buying the odd new house and polo pony my father finds himself on the dole after forty years of hard graft.

My brother has been told by his employers that he is no longer required. My youngest brother faces a bleak future after he leaves school. My mother is finding it hard to manage on the dole money.

In many respects things haven't changed much since 1914. Society is still run in the interests of a privileged class who feed off the labour of others.

But this time no amount of patriotic propaganda will succeed in blinding the working class as to who their real enemies are.

Fraternally
Nick Worth
Bristol South East LPYS



In the trenches, 1914—fighting for King and country

One law for the poor

Dear Comrades

While the judiciary of Britain were starting to hand out prison sentences to schoolchildren found with packets of cigarettes or new shoes, an example of much grander style larceny hit the press.

Terry Sinclair, the "mastermind" of a drugs syndicate had been convicted of murder in the 'handless corpse' trial. His 'pilfering' had amassed him an estimated £25 million "give or take a million" as the judge put it.

Just £1 million has been confiscated from Sinclair to pay costs. Apparently though capitalist law regards the other £24 million to be as sacrosanct as any other form of private property. The money was extracted through misery,

but these are the means by which most 'legal' capitalists acquire their wealth. For the judges it would be unwise to delve too deeply into the parallels.

Not only that, but despite his twenty year sentence, he may serve a shorter time than someone charged with "rioting". It appears he has already offered £1 million to anybody who can 'spring' him.

A senior detective in the case commented, "How can you keep a man worth £25 million in jail? I won't be surprised to learn he has flown the nest."

The Tories would have us believe that British justice is too impartial to be subject to such mercenary factors. But how many unemployed youth convicted during the riots could lay hands on a million?

It would seem there is one law for the poor and no law at all for the rich.

Yours fraternally
John Goodby
Central Hull LPYS

Finish Wat Tyler's Work

Dear Comrades

Rioting erupted in sleepy Maidstone last weekend for the first time since the Peasants' Revolt of 1381! Maidstone's youth took to the streets to express their frustration with unemployment, and bad social conditions, the effects of capitalism.

In reply, Maidstone's Conservative MP John Wells said, "There is no need for any youths to be out of work when strawberry picking is on," and claimed that unemployment had nothing to do with the riots.

He repeated this to me while I was selling *Militant* in town, but walked away when a woman, who had overheard his comment, said her daughter had failed all summer to find a job picking fruit in the area.

Both Mr Wells and the Chairman of Maidstone & District Youth Association blamed "bad parents", and the latter criticised the fact that there had been a definite drop "in fathers

standing over children with leather belts".

No wonder some youth see violence as their only alternative! National Service is also advocated by the Reverend Nick Stacey, Director of Kent's Social Services, but if this then is the answer, why have so many parents who have done National Service apparently "failed" in parentship?

Kent police chief Barry Pain said that it was just young people who had nothing better to do, i.e. they were unemployed. A local youth said that police harassment was to blame. "The Old Bill keep picking on us...it's out of order...riots are the only way we can get back at them."

But socialism not rioting is the answer and the LPYS especially must defend the youth, but channel their energies into the fight for socialism, and the end of our 'imprisonment' under capitalism.

We must finish the work of the Peasants' Revolt which Wat Tyler led from Maidstone and raise the banner of socialism.

Fraternally
Mark Warner

£23.50 'incentive'

Dear Comrades

As Thatcher and Prior announce their £500 million package to try and repair the damage they've already done to the Youth Opportunities Programme it is useful to look at the real attitude of the Tories towards the scheme.

Alex Fletcher, leading Scottish Tory minister, rejected calls in the Commons for a rise in the rate of pay for YOPsters currently standing at a measly £23.50 for a 37½-hour week.

You see, Alex maintains that this princely sum is "enough incentive" for 16-17 year olds to take a place on the scheme. Perhaps when Fletcher votes for his next pay rise for MPs he should remember that the pay for YOPs has been static for over 2 years!

The LPYS should de-

mand trade union rates of pay, real training, a guaranteed job and an extension of the scheme into a massive programme of public works to build hospitals, schools and homes for people.

As for Alex's "incentive", the only incentive he gives me is to get rid of Neanderthal Tory MPs for good and establish a socialist Britain!

Yours fraternally
Ian O'Hara
East Kilbride LPYS

Bosses fear socialism

Dear Comrades

I work on a Youth Opportunities scheme and earn £23.50 for 40 hours work making soft toys.

When I took 'Militant' into my workplace (having received it from a friend) I began to read it. I then showed it to a workmate but the supervisor took it

off me.

This shows that the bosses are frightened of the ideas of socialism. I cannot put my name to this letter just in case my supervisor finds out and I would be sacked.

Yours fraternally
A St Helens
LPYS member

Return to the scene of crime

Dear Comrades

Heseltine visits Liverpool investigating the reason for the Toxteth riots. Three million are on the dole, yet Heseltine buys his third house, worth hundreds of thousands, while people have to live in slum conditions.

Surely a case of the criminal coming to visit the scene of his crimes. Then he makes the statement that 'democracy' is in danger of breaking down. Should this occur Tarzan and Jane

(Thatcher) would have a lot to answer for the jungles that they have created with their jungle law of "grab what you can get".

Then we move to Ottawa where a capitalist gathering wring their hands deploring unemployment and inflation which they know perfectly well they have been responsible for; another case of criminals gathering to cry about the crimes they have perpetrated.

The sooner workers realise the rubbish that is making decisions controlling the lives of themselves and their families, who say when they can and cannot get work, the better. The sooner the working class sweep the likes of Thatcher and her henchmen into the gutter where they belong the sooner we'll be controlling our own future and those of our children.

Fraternally
J Darcy
Bootle CLP

Build **MILITANT**

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target 10 Oct	Target for year
Eastern	3002		4970	7100
East Midlands	2413		3850	5500
Hants & Dorset	1672		3640	5200
Humberside	1027		2450	3500
London East	3497		5320	7600
London West	1957		3360	4800
London South	3081		3850	5500
Manchester & Lancs	2042		4060	5800
Merseyside	2410		4620	6600
Northern	2612		6020	8600
Scotland East	1460		3080	4400
Scotland West	2539		5250	7500
Southern	3457		4970	7100
South West	1608		2450	3500
Wales East	1022		1820	2600
Wales West	1492		3220	4600
West Midlands	3171		6020	8600
Yorkshire	3438		6300	9000
Others	9005		8750	12500
Total received	50,907		84,000	120,000

TARGET FOR YEAR-£120,000

NO HOLIDAY FOR MILITANT

It may be the holiday season, but still a good many of our readers are at home, and contributing to our funds.

And some readers far from home have helped us: for example, we've just had £20 from a reader in the Far East, and £3 from Austrian readers. Nearer London, thanks to G Hensby (NUR) for his £15 donation, and P Newton (Dagenham) for £10.

A large number of readers from the West of Scotland this week have boosted their line on our chart, including J Edwards, E McGeachen,

R Sinclair and A Marshall. Fivers came from P Holfield (Luton), L McCluskey (Liverpool), J Mennell (London), K Mitchell (Canvey Is.) and a member of the armed forces.

Between £1 and £3 came from M Burbridge (York), M Waldheim (London), 3 Chester supporters A Price, C Challoner and J Khar, V Northmore (NSMM), G McCormock (Doncaster) and S Jones (EPTU), who collected pennies and half-pennies for us.

Swansea supporters have got together and collected £56, partly from sale of stickers, a Marxist Discussion Group in Chester-le-Street left us over £5 better

off, and the members of the Scottish LPYS Committee contributed £5.65.

We've received the £20 promised from Hackney Central LPYS and Merseyside trade unionists, members of NGA, SOGAT and NALGO, added to a collection at Valley Ward Labour Party, raised £32.

From Durham and Tees-side, proceeds from a Republican Day social and from

Southampton £10 from Tolpuddle badges join the £51 sponsored cycle (S London), Blyth hairdressing, tea and coffee money (Stevenage), and sale of TV sets (Leeds) as examples of how money can be raised almost any-how!

We appeal to all our readers to turn all opportunities to our advantage. History is on our side but time is not!

THIS WEEK: £1,020

CLASS WAR IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

By Keith Whitehead

Whole forests have been cleared to produce reams of mush on That Wedding.

New trees have been constructed, family trees to show that Lady Diana Spencer is 'fit' to be Queen. She is descended from practically every titled medieval exploiter who ever breathed.

Farmworkers in Northamptonshire don't need reminding of the feudal traditions of the Spencers. Six hundred years after the Peasants' Revolt, His Lordship still treats his employees like serfs.

Bill Russell had worked for Lord Spencer for ten

years on his Althorp estate in Northamptonshire. He was an extremely conscientious worker; often working until four in the morning repairing combine harvesters.

Mr Russell decided that he wanted to move from his isolated cottage into a council house nearer the shops and local facilities.

Lord Spencer saw red. Mr Russell had a tied cottage. If workers on leaving their job lose not only income, but the roof over their head, they will be much less bothersome. A council house would give far too much freedom.

Two weeks later, Mr Russell saw his own job

advertised in 'Farmers' Weekly', and shortly afterwards got his cards.

The Agricultural Workers Union are fighting for Mr Russell's job. As the NUAAW general secretary, Jack Boddy said, "while one couple prepare for a life in regal splendour, another prepares for a life of a thousand mean economies on the dole."

It's really a microcosm of life under the capitalist system. From Merseyside and Tyneside to rural Northamptonshire, millions are having to decide whose side they are on in the class war.



ads

STOTHARD: to Bob and Sue at Durham on 20 July a daughter, Elizabeth. A future fighter for, and of, the working class.

LEEDS '50' Raffle: winner No. 29, Bob Barrett.

BAHUMUTSI Theatre Compnay of Soweto, S. Africa British tour—The Hungry Earth. Evening performances at the following venues. 5 to 9 August: The Oval House, Kennington, London; 14 August, Balsall Heath Church Centre, Birmingham; 15 August, Glasgow Theatre Club; 17 to 22 August, Theatre Workshop, Hamilton Place, Edinburgh. All enquiries Steve Parry, 81 Galloway Road, London W12. Tel. 01-740 0248.

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RAILMEN MUST WIN!

Railway workers, especially lower paid grades, have for years been forced to do vast amounts of overtime to make ends meet.

At the same time, traffic on the railways has declined due to recession on one hand, and cuts in services and facilities because of Tory cash limits on the other.

This has led to a drop in the overtime working, and thereby earnings. Many railway workers have been forced on to or near the poverty line.

This year's annual pay rise recommended by the Railway Staffs National Tribunal (RSNT) is for an increase of 11% in basic rates of pay. This, the RSNT recommended should be paid in two stages with an 8% increase backdated from April, and a further 3% rise to be paid from the 1 August.

This would amount to a 10% increase in pay over the whole year, but would in fact still only restore railwaymen's buying power to the level of September 1980.

Although far short of what the unions claimed for and every railway worker needs, the rail unions have agreed to abide by the RSNT decision.

The British Rail Board (BRB) rejected the tribunals findings. They have agreed to pay the 8% from April, but are prepared to pay the additional 3% only if rail unions agree to talks about certain aspects of railway operation.

These include One Man Operation of passenger trains (OMO), driver-only operation of some freight trains, the open station concept, and flexi-rostering.

OMO would be introduced on some suburban networks, using new stock which has been designed for operation by the driver only, who would be expected to work the air operated doors.

This has been agreed by the Railway Inspectorate on the basis of certain conditions including the use of closed circuit TV on platforms and direct radio links from the driver to the signal box.

Management aim to introduce this first on the new electrified St. Pancras to Bedford service with the loss of 60 guards jobs at Cricklewood and Bedford. A further 150 guards jobs will be lost with planned introduction on Southern Region and further schemes are proposed for the Moor-gate—Hertford/Welwyn and Liverpool St—Gidea Park services.

Operation of freight trains with only a driver in charge has also been agreed by the Railway Inspectorate on condition that all trains are fully braked throughout and must be running over lines equipped with multi-aspect colour light signalling.

By Dave Phillips
(Stratford ASLE&F personal capacity)

A further 2,500 guards jobs will be lost as a result with even greater responsibilities being loaded onto the driver.

The Open Station Concept would reduce many stations to little more than unstaffed halts. Collection of fares and issue of tickets would generally take place on the train except during morning and evening peak hours.

That means more lost jobs for booking office-clerks and station staff with many more only working rush hours. For railway workers still "lucky" enough to have a job, after all this, the proposals for flexi-rostering would be the worst erosion of working conditions in living memory.

The present 8 hour guaranteed working day would be abolished. Instead, staff could be booked on for the maximum of 10 hours. However, depending on traffic and management's requirements railwaymen could find themselves doing shifts varying from between three, six or, up to ten hours in the same week, to a maximum of 40 hours a week.

This is a nightmare proposal in an industry already cursed with some of the worst shift work. The BRB have even threatened to withdraw the agreement to cut the working week to 39 hours from November this year.

Correctly the leadership of NUR and ASLE&F, under pressure from an irate membership, have refused the latest pound of flesh demanded by the British Railways Board and are discussing strike action. These proposals must never be accepted by the rail unions.

Management state that British Rail are losing £2 million a week and will exceed the guidelines laid down by the Tories by £45 million this year. Productivity is required to generate the missing cash they say.

Whilst Sir Peter Parker and the British Rail Board advertise this as the "Age of the Train" they are running British Rail down and worsening the conditions of railway workers on a scale not seen since Beeching.

Fleet Street rags like the 'Evening Standard' have been quick to back the call for "more productivity", comparing British Rail with continental railways. In reality, BR workers are high in productivity compared with Europe, work longer hours on average and are the lowest paid. British Rail also receives less government support than any other



Not much! Manchester railwaymen collect their pay.

Photo: John Sturrock (Report) 2

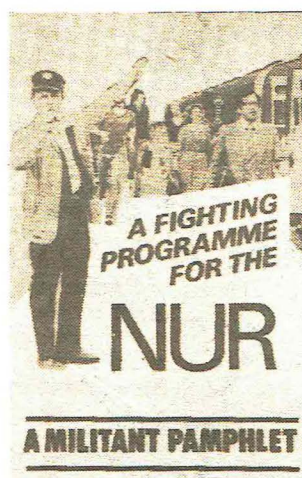
major European railway network.

The last few years have seen rail union leaders putting up no opposition to management, who are running British Rail in line with their Tory paymasters.

It is this lack of preparedness to oppose the railway company which mean that management have felt they can demand more and more.

A stand must be made now. The three rail unions must unite all railway workers in a common struggle, not only in pursuit of this claim, but they must link this to a fight to reverse the run down of the railways and link this to a battle against the Tory government.

Total all-out strike action by the rail unions would very quickly throw back the Tories and management. It would put an end to the class collaboration between union leaders and the BRB over the past period and raise the sights and spirits of all workers battling against the Tory government.



Price: 30p

VICTORY TO L.T. WORKERS

By
Arwyn Thomas
(Hammersmith NUR)

Unlike the railway workers nationally, the 1981 annual pay claim for London Transport Underground workers has been settled with an 11% increase in basic rates—with no strings attached.

This represents a step forward for the rail unions and for all London Transport (LT) workers.

Without a doubt, it was the determination of LT workers to stand firm, and the decision of the NUR to call for total indefinite strike which forced LT Executive management to increase their original paltry offer and drop their productivity demands.

With inflation at 12% and expected to rise in the future, management's original 8% offer was totally unacceptable and would have meant a drastic cut in living standards.

Furthermore this rise was to have been conditional on rail unions accepting cuts in manning levels, and giving an undertaking not to pursue claims for a shorter working week or longer holidays for two years.

These and other proposals, more akin to the previous Tory regime at County Hall than to the present Labour Greater London Council, would

increased workloads for LT workers.

The mood of anger and opposition of staff was clearly shown at a packed meeting at Friends House only hours before the final settlement. Speaker after speaker expressed their preparedness to strike, with many putting forward proposals for building the strike and ensuring its effectiveness.

It was reported from the platform that although the NUR National Executive had been prepared to offer the pumpmen dispensation to work during the strike, an official deputation had been received from those men stating their intention to take part in the strike.

However, the fighting spirit of the NUR membership has not been matched by the leadership over the years. Even at the mass meeting this was evident. Demand after demand from the floor to know what kind of final settlement the national executive committee would agree to was fobbed off and evaded.

One NEC member even said that he couldn't give a figure, as the strike might be defeated thus pouring cold water over the mood of anger that existed. Clearly with a fighting leadership, far more can now be achieved.

Not only can the LTE be defeated but in the coming period we must end once

and for all low pay on London Transport.

The election of a Labour GLC has greatly raised the expectation of its employees throughout London. Many underground workers were angered by the GLC's apparent refusal to intervene and ensure that management made a proper offer.

Immediately the capitalist press attempted to drive a wedge between the Labour GLC and NUR members. Unfortunately, some leading NUR officials didn't help the situation with outspoken attacks on the new Labour administration. However, the Labour GLC were elected on a radical programme with the overwhelming support of the trade union movement. Ken Livingstone publicly thanked the NUR for its contribution to the election victory.

The GLC is to be applauded for its stand on fare cuts in London. However, there are some right wing Labour councillors on the GLC who are already backtracking and have no commitment to the GLC manifesto policies.

The London labour movement must ensure that there are no retreats if the GLC policies are to be implemented. With the opposition of the Tory government to the GLC, the backing of unions like the NUR will be essential.

CBI PROPOSALS ON UNIONS -

REJECT TORY CHAINS

The voice of big business, represented by the Confederation of British Industry [CBI] have recently published their proposals on labour law.

They expect their parliamentary representatives, the Tories to attempt a further undermining, through legislation, of the strength of the trade union movement.

The lack of firm and decisive leadership by the labour and trade union leaders against the Tory onslaught on jobs and living standards has resulted in many workers being wary of embarking on industrial action, afraid of being left high and dry without official support and guidelines.

The massive wave of redundancies and short-time working is at present blunting the industrial struggle as workers temporarily hold back on wage demands in the false belief that this will secure their jobs.

It is against this background that the employers are now proposing to strengthen the Tories 'Employment Act' feeling confident they have the upper hand for the moment.

However, if the CBI and the Tories believe they can shackle the trade union movement with parliamentary legislation they will be as mistaken, as they were with the Industrial Relations Act of the early '70s.

One of the most controversial areas of this Employment Act has been the demand that picketing should be confined to just six 'peaceful' pickets at a time. The miners' dispute in February this year, had the Tories allowed it to escalate, would have shown how important that piece of legislation is when the working class moves into action.

The picketing of rail-yards, power stations, docks, etc, by hundreds of miners could have provoked a general strike had any of the pickets been arrested. As one South Wales miner commented at the time "The Tories can't arrest the whole NUM."

Even pickets during the civil servants' strike have ignored the limits on picketing in their determination to defeat the Tories. This was highlighted at the massive Swansea Vehicle Licensing Centre where a couple of hundred pickets successfully prevented equipment entering the centre by surrounding the lorry (extremely difficult to do with just six of

By Alec Thraves
(Swansea AUEW)

you!).

The main attack by the CBI is directed at the closed shop, which they want to abolish completely. But its more far-sighted members understand this cannot be done immediately, because of the strength of the trade unions.

To get around this problem they recommend a slow nibbling away at the closed shop. Where they are in operation it generally means a strong, well-organised factory or site, where all workers are members of their appropriate union and also outside contractors have to be trade union members, receiving the local rate, before they can enter the workplace.

The main attack by the CBI is directed at the closed shop, they want to abolish it completely

The bosses want to see the growth of non-union 'cowboy' firms by removing clauses in contracts which requires employers to use only trade union labour for contracting and supplying.

This would naturally be used to try and undermine the trade union organisation because employers would then use the cheaper, unskilled, contract labour instead of employing more permanent staff at the more expensive trade union rate with safer conditions of employment.

The CBI also want to look after those workers who are eager to claim all the benefits from the sacrifices and struggles of the trade union movement but are reluctant to actually join a union and contribute to its well-being.

The bosses suggest lavish compensation for these poor workers who because of their principals are "unfairly" dismissed for not belonging to a union—the only principles these people have is to grab and grab more, just like their Tory friends.



March 9th 1980: workers march against Tory Employment Bill. Photo: MILITANT

February 1971: workers march against Heath's Industrial Relations Act



The employers say that more "democracy" is needed in the unions. What they mean by democracy is "secret ballots" and they suggest that state funds should be made available for such ballots on the acceptability of wage offers.

This, they hope, would help them influence the decisions of our members by putting over their threats and lies in the Tory media. Their strange breed of democracy would rely on trade union members not attending branch meetings to hear the real truth from the stewards.

Their 'democracy' would try to prevent democratic discussion, debate and voting on whether to accept or reject the offer.

While we recognise that all strikes are in reality "political strikes" the CBI want the Tories to take measures to ensure that strikes on political issues should be outlawed. So in

the event of a general strike against the Tories, beware! We will all be breaking the law.

The ruling class sipping whisky in their drawing rooms and gentlemen's clubs, may see in their cigar smoke visions of a time when the trade unions will be like a toothless tiger. That will not happen.

However, trade unionists must continuously be on their guard and fight any measures designed to undermine our strength by the bosses and their Tory representatives in parliament.

An integral part of that fight is rearming the trade unions and the TUC with the fighting policies and leadership able to confront the Tories.

Our industrial muscle, correctly used, could easily bring to power a Labour government committed to ending the rule of capitalism once and for all.

CIVIL SERVICE-STRIKE ENDS

The historic civil service pay strike is now over. The 5,000 selective strikers, some of whom have been out for 21 weeks have returned to work.

The return to work follows the decision of the Council of Civil Service Unions, at its meeting on Thursday evening [30 July] by an 8 to 1 union majority to accept the government's 'revised' pay offer.

The voting at the council meeting reflected

the results of the separate membership consultative exercises carried out by the nine trade unions. The result of the consultative exercises for the 6 major unions was as below:—

A full analysis of the 21 week strike and the way forwards for the civil service trade union movement will appear in the next issue of 'Militant'.

By Brian Ingham

Union	For offer	Against
CPSA	69,976	35,266
SCPS	17,641	14,529
IRSF	17,501	19,344
IPCS	42,398	5,878
AGS	6,548	649
CSU	7 sections	6 sections

IRSF

Inland Revenue workers voted to reject the government's latest derisory pay offer. Their union, the IRSF, has previously been regarded as a more 'moderate' section of civil service workers, but the ballot result shows how rapidly workers cast off old images, in battle with the Tories.

The union's Executive Committee decided not to make any recommendation in the ballot, in spite of the barrage of Tory propaganda aimed at members, and the confusion after months of selective action. A resolution proposing a strike from

3 August received very little Executive support.

The ballot result must therefore be seen as a measure of members' determination—in spite of, not because of, the leadership they were offered.

With a bold lead, spelling out the need for concerted all-out action from the outset, the campaign could have been transformed and won.

Accusations that the left wing were out of touch with the members' mood have been proved totally wrong. The lessons will not be lost on IRSF members.

US AIR DISPUTE - Reagan's wild west justice

Threats of imprisonment, fines, court orders forbidding strike payments and the sack if they stay on strike.

Reagan's law means fines of a million dollars a day for the union while the strike goes on.

All this faces the American air traffic controllers, who have gone on strike over pay and conditions following their rejection of the American government's pay offer last week.

President Reagan clearly sees this dispute as a major confrontation between his administration and organised labour. He has said that "the full force of the Justice Department" will be used against the strikers, and no amnesty will be offered to give the workers their jobs back, should any be sacked.

Under federal law, the air traffic controllers are forbidden to go on strike. Already the first steps have been taken to have Patco

(controllers' union) leaders sent to jail.

The strikers have been presented with an ultimatum of returning to work within 48 hours or being fired.

The union were claiming 80-90% support for the strike on its first day. At least half the 14,000 domestic flights were cancelled, and at Heathrow there were "long delays" to flights heading for America.

It is clear that Reagan is out to smash the union in the hope that this will discourage the others. He will find the same resistance from American workers as the Heath government did in Britain in the early 1970s.

The CPSA and other civil service unions working in air traffic control should give full support to the American workers as should the US trade union federation, the AFL-CIO, by blacking work at the airports.

NEW MILITANT PAMPHLET Socialism Made Easy By James Connolly

A new edition of Connolly's Marxist classic. Available price 25p plus 15p postage and packing, from World Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

POLAND: New struggles against regime

Only a few weeks after the special Communist Party conference that was to chart a way out of Poland's crisis, simmering tensions once again bubbling to the surface.

In Lodz and Warsaw, masses of workers and housewives have taken to the streets in protest against the food policy announced by the new "democratically-elected" leadership. They reflect the workers' anger throughout the country.

The government wants to increase food prices by up to 400%, while cutting the adult meat ration from 3.5 kilos per month to 3 kilos (6.6 lbs). Most other food staples are also in desperately short supply in state shops.

Workers need to queue for four hours to buy a simple commodity like sugar—the 'alternative' is to buy it on the black market, at more than ten times the official price.

These intolerable conditions are forcing the mass of Poland's working class into new struggles against the regime. The country's revamped Stalinist leadership only exposes its own bankruptcy by its impotent rage against workers' protests.

Echoing the Russian bureaucracy, which claims "the counter-revolution has become active again after a lull," the new Polish Politbureau says the food shortages are being exploited to stir up tensions.

The years of misrule by the bureaucracy itself have brought the Polish economy to its present critical state. Following the 1970 strikes the leadership resorted to massive borrowing from the West in an effort to boost production and appease workers' demands.

In their hands, however, the potential of the planned economy has been drained by corruption, mismanagement and waste resulting in a soaring mountain of debt to Western moneylenders, which the bureaucracy is incapable of repaying, plus growing economic chaos.

Food production is crippled by a shortage of 500,000 tractors—which cannot be supplied because certain components are imported from the West, and there is no money left to buy them. National income for the first half of 1981 has fallen by 15% compared with the

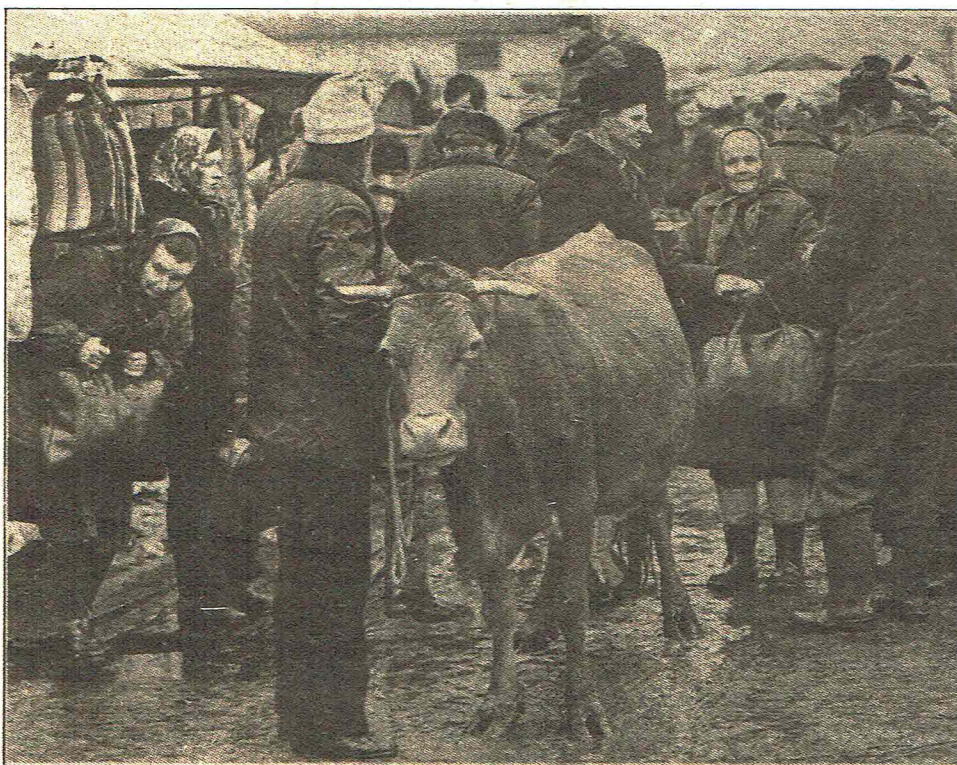


Photo: A market in South Poland. Bureaucratic mismanagement has brought food queues and backward agriculture.

George Collins reports on the latest developments

same period last year.

At the special CP conference, Prime Minister Jaruzelski said an immediate 110% increase in consumer prices was needed to set the economy on its feet. This would far more than swallow the 25% wage increase won by workers earlier this year.

Already, with less to buy in the shops, money is losing much value and speculation in jewellery and other valuables is rife.

Rank and file pressure in Solidarity

Solidarity leaders, unfortunately remain set on compromise with the bureaucracy. They are prepared to accept price increases in return for more 'workers' control' in the factories and are fighting to hold back the rank and file from action.

A recent meeting at Ursus tractor plant near Warsaw illustrates the contradictions between Solidarity's leadership and the pressure of its

rank and file. "The revolution in Poland is absolutely different from any other because we don't aim to overthrow the government," Z Bujak, leader of the union's Warsaw region, told the meeting.

But the workers responded "When a strike is called we should not let the government negotiate at the last minute." "The government and Solidarity use beautiful words but nothing changes. When is there going to be action?"

In fact, only militant struggle has brought the Polish workers this far and made possible the continued existence of Solidarity itself. The change and action that workers demand can only come by carrying the struggle through to its conclusion—political change.

The workers' movement will have to be mobilised to overthrow the bureaucratic regime and establish the democratic workers' rule over society as a whole. Only then can the enormous benefits of the planned economy be applied in the interests of working people.

Workers' democracy in Poland can only be cemented on the basis of the defeat of Stalinism throughout Western Europe. Already, leaflets supporting the example of the Polish workers

have been distributed at East German colleges.

A revolutionary internationalist appeal by the Polish workers' leaders would provoke a tremendous response in all the surrounding countries.

But the effect of victorious political revolution in Poland would not be limited to Eastern Europe. It would destroy the myth that socialism means dictatorship, and like the revolution of 1917 become the signal for new revolutionary struggles on a world scale. The Polish workers are in the forefront of the working-class movement internationally.

For a Marxist analysis of the Soviet union and Eastern Europe, read "Bureaucratism or Workers power" by Silverman and Grant.

Available, price 50p including post and packing, from World Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

Fightback

Lothian- No to cuts!

CONTINUED FROM
 PAGE ONE

they may put forward.

To "save" the £47 million of Rate Support Grant in this financial year, the government will have to cut £1 1/2 million per week from the council. Without this money the council will immediately face a financial crisis, with not enough cash to pay wages and debts.

If Younger is allowed to do this it will be a direct challenge, not just to the Labour councillors and working people of Lothian, but to the labour and trade union movement throughout Britain.

The Tory government is determined to force a Labour council to act as its agent in a savage attack on social services, education and transport.

The Labour groups is now faced with the stark choice—total capitulation by cutting their budget by the amount dictated by Younger [and no amount of propaganda to place blame on the Tory shoulders will disguise the fact that it would be capitulation] or standing firm and refusing to cut a single job or service.

This is a battle which the Lothian Labour Councillors have to face in the

vanguard, but they must not be left alone.

It is a fight which must involve every member of the labour and trade union movement. On Thursday, TUC Chairman, Alan Fisher, will be in Edinburgh for talks with the Tory ministers.

He must spell out to them that if they carry out their threat, the whole might of the TUC will be mobilised to defeat them.

He must be pressed to commit full national support for all out strike action by Lothian Region council employees as soon as the first compulsory redundancy is implemented, the first job is lost, or if wages cannot be paid.

The Labour Party too, need to make clear that this attack on one Labour council is an attack on them all and will meet it with the total opposition of the labour movement.

Lothian region is being used as a trial run for a similar assault by Heseltine next year on Labour authorities in England and Wales.

The way to halt the Tories in their tracks is a massive mobilisation to force Younger to back down.

This is a fight that must be won if truly appalling damage is not to be done to social services, council jobs and the credibility of the Labour Party as a vehicle for defending living standards against the Tory onslaught.

See also article on cuts
 in Coventry. page 4

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