

TUC: SUPPORT HEALTH WORKERS

This time they have gone too far! For years we have borne the brunt of low pay with successive governments considering us a soft touch.

It is an absolute scandal and an indictment of this system that people who care for the sick are forced to strike for a basic living wage. With the majority of health workers' wages only just making the official poverty line we have had no alternative but to fight back.

The blame for any disruption which takes place, and the inevitable increase in already intolerably long waiting lists, must be laid fairly and squarely on the government who have forced us into this situation by cutting back hospitals and starving the health service of cash.

The Tories and the rich they represent have a deliberate policy of making more profit out of sickness by encouraging the development of private health care, which they alone can afford. Their ultimate aim is a two-tier health care system with a "safety net" for only the poor and old.

The first year of a common pay settlement date has fostered increased unity between the unions. So far the industrial action has had a tremendous and united response, despite attempts by the government to divide health workers by pretending to make nurses a special case.

The call by the TUC Health Services Committee (which incorporates all the health service unions) for a 24-hour strike by health workers on 19 May gained overwhelming support. Many hospitals set up picket lines manned by all sections of workers. Demonstrations took place in different parts of the country, where the deepening mood of anger and bitterness was clearly reflected.

Since then not a day has gone by when the pay dispute has not been discussed with great enthusiasm. The leadership at national and local level must now build for the 24

Continued on back page

By Sue Pearce
NUPE
personal capacity



On the picket line at St. Mary's Paddington (see reports page 15)

Photo: MILITANT

Stock Exchange profits from 'little' war

"There is nothing like a war, even a little one, to power defence and electronic stocks."

In this cynical manner, one of the economics pundits in the *Observer* commented on the fortunes on arms components stocks and shares that have been given a boost by the war in the Falklands. "Brokers now vie with each other", he went on, "to rush out to

institutional clients competing lists of armament stocks."

The war is certainly not "little" for the widows of the many servicemen killed in the last eight weeks. But neither is it little for the arms profiteers: for those people who make millions of pounds by a few phone calls, it can mean millions more.

Stockbrokers Grieverson Grant have just completed a review of the shares of com-

panies making defence components and they have concluded, not surprisingly, that people with these shares are onto a good thing. All the defence components stock are either designated "buy" or "hold" and none designated "sell". In other words hang on to as many shares as you can: the loot will be rolling in soon.

GEC, whose subsidiary Marconi makes the radar for the Sea-Wolf missile

system, are especially recommended and their profits are expected to rise from £476m this year to £590m next year and £675m the year after. Racal, makers of the tracking radar for Rapier missiles, are similarly recommended and if you still have a few millions to spend, then put them into shares in Smiths, involved in developing the next generation of Harrier jets, and Plesseys.

Many other companies

big and small are set to cash in on the war, because of their involvement in the production of complex components for missiles, helicopters, radar and aircraft.

But the Tories are clearly not satisfied with this profits bonanza and they are now preparing to sell off the dozen Royal Ordnance Factories which supply the armed forces with military

Continued on back page

Militant

In the aftermath of the Falklands war

The British Task Force now seems poised to retake the Falkland Islands. There may still be serious obstacles in the way of a British victory, not least the concentration of 6,000 or 7,000 Argentine troops ringing Port Stanley, now stiffened with the recent introduction of marines. But it would seem only a matter of time before the military blockade has its effect.

The United Nations 'negotiations' in the past weeks were only an attempt by both the British and Argentine governments to gain international support by each putting the responsibility for war on the other. These UN discussions were doomed from the beginning because of the irreconcilable differences involved.

The Argentine Junta would not have accepted any deal that involved their own withdrawal from the Falkland Islands, and similarly, Thatcher, once having embarked upon a policy of war, could not accept any deal that left the Argentines on the Islands.

Now that the re-invasion of the Islands is underway, there is even less prospect that the British ruling class will accept a cease-fire or an unfavourable agreement. Having become embroiled in a serious land war, moreover with a prospect of a victory in sight, the British ruling class will not entertain a cease-fire, and will veto any cease-fire resolution in the United Nations Security Council.

But if the changing balance of the war has further emphasised the determination of the British capitalist class, the fact that the war has taken place at all will also have altered their perspective for the Islands.

Before April 2nd, the Falklands had been neglected by successive British Governments, and because of the lack of development from Britain, the Islands came to rely upon Argentina for air communication and for the provision of fuel and other necessities. The fact that many Falkland Islanders were refused British citizenship under the new Nationality Act, is an indication of the disregard for the interests of the Falkland Islanders, shown by the Tory Government.

But having spent hundreds of millions of pounds and many lives to recapture the Falklands, the ruling class will not now be prepared to give them up. Tory Ministers have already made it clear that there will have to be a period of "6 to 12 months" during which the Islanders will be "consulted."

In reality, it is now likely that there will be a garrison on the Islands for a lot longer than that, and it may even be that, whereas there was no development of the Islands beforehand, the Tories will have to begin some development of oil or fishing.

There will now be no

question of the British ruling class handing over sovereignty of the Falkland Islands to Argentina, and that applies with even greater force to South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands.

The mood of the working class in Argentina will quickly begin to change in the event of a decisive defeat in the Falklands. The euphoric mood of nationalism, which was evident when the 'Malvinas' were first liberated, has already given way to a more sombre mood, which in its turn will change to anger against the Junta for having launched the adventure in the first place.

The Sunday Times correspondent in Buenos Aires, reported the comments of one worker there. "This war is terrible for both sides," he said, "but it's worse for us. It's our young men who are dying—kids of 17. All over two lumps of rock that we haven't had for 149 years and don't need." Whether or not this comment is genuine, it will undoubtedly reflect the growing undercurrents of opposition to the Junta.

Criticism that was muted during the hostilities will become bolder and more outspoken in the aftermath of a defeat. The Junta will be blamed for the launch of the invasion, for the casualties, for the defeat and for the enormous economic costs borne by the workers themselves.

The three top officers, Generals Galtieri, Lami Dozo, and Admiral Anaya can feel the ground shifting beneath their feet. It seems that the differences and rivalries between these top officers of the Junta has even effected Argentine military effectiveness.

Each one is, in effect, the autonomous Commander-in-Chief of his own particular branch of the armed forces, each with its own thousands of officers and men, its own military hardware and owning its own arms industries. It has been reported that there have been bitter recriminations within the Junta over the conduct of the war, with Anaya condemning air force General Lami Dozo for not having committed more combat aircraft in the early phase of the British invasion, and Lami Dozo questioning the lack of commitment of Anaya's navy.

In any case, what will increasingly worry the Junta officers will not be the opposition or a coup by their brother officers, but an enormous revolutionary explosion from below, involving the mass of the Argentine working class. It may not be that long now before the Argentine working class comes to settle accounts for the bloody suppression of democratic rights and for the 20,000 socialists and trade unionists murdered since the 1976 coup.

As one Junta succeeded another in recent years, the



Photo: PA

As long as the war is in progress, and servicemen's lives are at risk, the criticisms of the government will inevitably be relatively subdued. But afterwards there will be a reckoning. Workers will count the costs of the war in the lives of the servicemen and in their own living standards. The Tories and Thatcher will not get off lightly.

replaced dictators were invariably allowed a graceful retirement, but if the wrath of the Argentine working class is unleashed, there is every possibility that the Generals and Admirals will suffer the same fate as their Iranian counterparts.

After the collapse of the Greek Junta in 1974, the new incoming government was forced to put the leading officers on trial, although on that occasion they got away lightly. But if there is a mass movement from below that succeeds in ousting the Argentine Jun-

ta, there may very well be an Argentine 'Nuremberg', where the torturers and murderers have to answer for their crimes of the last six years.

But the political implications of the war will also be felt in Britain. It has been suggested that the Tories may call a snap General Election, hoping to ride back to power under the impetus of the military victory. But such a perspective

is unlikely, because it would backfire on the Tories.

There has been a large measure of support for the war among British workers and if, from the very beginning, the Labour leaders had exposed the hypocrisy of the Tories and advanced a socialist alternative, then this would not have been the case. But even then, support for the war in no way represents support for Thatcher. Despite their hatred of Thatcher, the majority of workers have felt a sense of solidarity and sympathy for British soldiers

and sailors, for 'our boys' at war.

As the war has progressed and more and more of the Junta's crimes are being brought out into the open, there is also a genuine hatred of the methods of these military dictators.

The support for the war and a hatred of Thatcher both came out for example at the annual conference of the National Union of Seamen, where delegates overwhelmingly supported the Task Force, but at the same time gave loud applause to General Secretary Jim Slater when he delivered a stinging rebuke to Thatcher: "You cannot have it both ways," he said, "stop your anti-trade union activities, lay off the unions, and concentrate on getting this country out of the terrible economic and social mess you have put us in."

As long as the war is in progress, and servicemen's lives are at risk, the criticisms of the Government will inevitably be relatively subdued. But afterwards there will be a reckoning. Workers will count the costs of the war in the lives of the servicemen, and in their own living standards.

The costs of the campaign will be well over £1,000m. And despite the fact that Nott has said that this is within the defence budget 'contingency,' it will find its way by one means or another on to the backs of working people. What, workers will ask, will the war-heroes come back to? The arms manufacturers will be rewarded with lucrative new contracts, but the workers' reward will be crippling new taxes and cuts.

The balance sheet of the war will be drawn, and workers will not be slow to conclude that it was the incompetence of the Tories which led to the war in the first place: the coffins will be counted and will be set against all the other costs that workers have to bear in the interests of British Big Business.

The Tories and Thatcher will not get off lightly. They are not likely to call an election in the aftermath of the war, and they are even less likely to win if they did.

But much as the Tories will be reluctant to have a snap election, the Labour leaders must nevertheless go onto the offensive. The Labour Party can point to the results of the Tories' policy at home—the laying waste of whole regions of the country and whole industries; workers' living standards under daily assault.

In this way Labour must redouble its efforts to kick the Tories out, and to mobilise support for genuine socialist policies. The struggle for socialist change in Britain is not incidental to the Falklands conflict but before, during and afterwards, it is the main contribution that the Labour Party can make towards a genuine workers' peace, in the best interests of all workers internationally.

STOP THE WITCH-HUNT!

No basis for right-wing attack

After the Welsh Labour Party conference, the right wing in the party must now realise that there is very little basis for possible witch-hunts or expulsions, despite the passing of a resolution calling for the expulsion of "Militant supporters, Trotskyists and similar activists" from the party.

The Tory press of course played up the decision of conference. Yet they remained silent about the decisions of the Southern, South West and West Midlands regional Labour Party conferences who threw out attempts at a witch-hunt, or the North West regional conference which refused to even discuss the issue!

The resolution was carried by the tiniest of margins, by 176,000 to 170,000, on a card vote.

On a show of hands the resolution for a witch-hunt was convincingly defeated, despite a number of full-time T&GWU officials voting for the witch-hunt (against the unanimous decision of their own National Executive). But when the right wing at conference called for a card vote, the Transport and General Workers Union abstained, thus allowing the resolution to be carried.

If the T&GWU had voted against the resolution with their 133,000 votes, the resolution would have been overwhelmingly defeated.

Scandalously, the closeness of the vote was compounded further by the fact that the delegates from the Welsh Organisation of Labour Students, 'Clause 4' supporters, used their 2,000 votes to abstain! Abstention

By Ken Smith
(LPYS rep Welsh LP
Regional Executive,
personal capacity)

on this issue was seen by many delegates to the conference quite clearly as allowing the prospect of a witch-hunt to take place. Although 'Militant' supporters who are opposed to any witch-hunt of the left are now fortunately the majority on the WOLS regional committee after the recent conference, the Clause 4 delegates were appointed before the WOLS conference.

When the vote was announced, it clearly shook the right wing who didn't clap, and who had earlier expected a much larger majority.

Earlier in the same debate, the G&MWU voted against the composite which called upon Labour Party members to back the Bishops Stortford agreement and for party unity.

The outcome of these votes at conference will now cause enormous repercussions within the T&GWU and G&MWU both in Wales and nationally, and will give no sustenance to those on the right of the party who wish to instigate a witch-hunt nationally.



The Labour Party Young Socialists have been at the forefront of the struggle to build the Labour Party, and moves to obstruct the LPYS will be opposed by many sections of the labour movement.

The Fire Brigades Union at its conference made a clear stand against any attempt at a witch-hunt. Ken Cameron, the FBU general secretary, told conference, "We are against witch-hunts. We want to unite the Labour Party to get rid of the government." He went on to congratulate union executive member, Terry Fields, a 'Militant' supporter who will stand as the Labour parliamentary candidate in Kirkdale. Altogether, firemen donated £100 to the Militant fighting fund, and the conference readers' meeting was the largest ever.

At the national conference of the National Union of Seamen, Sam McCluskie was questioned closely about his role on the Labour Party NEC where he supported the enquiry into 'Militant'. He was non-committal about his response to the forthcoming report, but said "it would go to conference and if the Militant Tendency has nothing to fear from the report."

Conference showed increasing support for radical ideas and socialist policies. At a conference of only 70 delegates, over 30 copies of 'Militant' were sold.

Rank and file reject witch-hunt

An avalanche of opposition has flooded into the National Executive Committee from the rank and file of the Labour Party, against witch-hunts and in particular attempts to stop local parties electing their own representatives to stand as parliamentary candidates.

Already, over 110 Constituency Labour Parties have passed resolutions against a witch-hunt, as well as 180 CLPs who are calling on the NEC to endorse Peter Tatchell as the Parliamentary candidate for Bermondsey, with many of these parties including a similar call over Pat Wall and coming out against a witch-hunt.

Added to this, further resolutions were received at the April meeting of the NEC. Besides several resolutions calling for the endorsement of Peter Tatchell and Pat Wall in Bradford North as parliamentary candidates, another six CLPs made a general call for all parliamentary candidates democratically elected by their parties to be endorsed, and they condemned interference in this process.

A further seven CLPs, along with the North West Regional Council, came out against the witch hunt, with East Nottingham CLP and Gravesend CLP opposing any attempt to obstruct or close the Labour Party Young Socialists. East Grinstead and Bath CLPs opposed any expulsion of supporters of the 'Militant'

in particular.

Besides Constituency Labour Parties and Labour Party organisations, many trade union branches and organisations have passed resolutions opposing any attempt of a witch-hunt against the left of the party and 'Militant' in particular:

Trades Councils—Deeside, Swansea, Mid and East Lothian, Liverpool, Edinburgh and Bradford.

Shop stewards' committees—Hull Docks, Redpath Degrot Oil Rig, Knowsley NALGO, National Harvesters.

TGWU—Hillingdon, Sussex, Manchester Queens Road Bus 6/5/4, Mobil 6/6/12 and 6/5/22, No 6 Region, 6/93.

ASTMS—No 4, B&I Committee, Southampton Insurance and Southampton, A199 and Yorkshire Region.

GMWU—7/200, No 5, Wandsworth.

UCATT—Uxbridge, Bradford Builders.

AUEW—three Swansea branches, Brighton No 11, Eccles Hill No 1, Sheffield District.

NUM—South Wales Executive and Scottish Area Council.

NUPE—Avon, Merseyside District, Glasgow Royal Infirmary.

FBU—Merseyside Regional Committee, National Executive, A Division Strathclyde.

EETPU—Bootle, Glasgow.

Other union branches include Teesside ISTC, Newcastle No 1 NUR, Swansea POEU, AUEW TASS Oxford, Blackpool Clerical FTAT, Bradford NSMM and Suffolk NAAAW.

'They won't pull the Union Jack over our eyes'

"I've yet to meet one Navy wife who will vote for Thatcher next time."

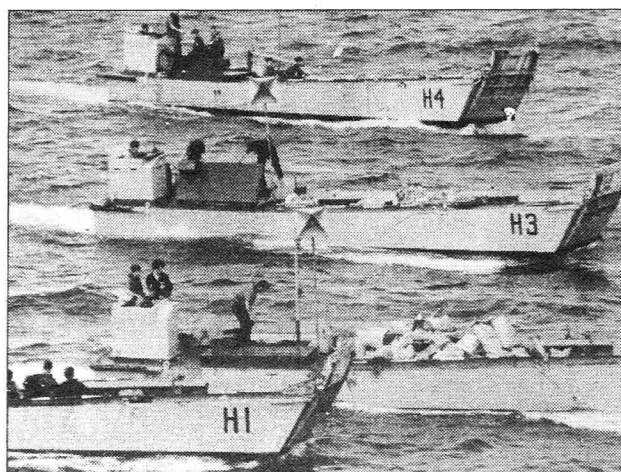
That was one typical comment at a Militant Readers' Meeting on the Falklands war held in the navy area of Gosport last week. The majority of people present had relatives or friends with the Task Force. Indeed, one comrade at the meeting was still in the Navy.

One woman married to a sailor with the Task Force described how she came to realise that a lot of what her husband was told was just propaganda. She had become interested in politics and the Labour Party, looking for a way out of the

problems facing ordinary people in and out of uniform. She said many wives were still frightened to even discuss politics but with the situation the Tories had got them and their husbands into, this had begun to change.

An older comrade whose husband had been in the Navy in the last war pointed out that Britain would not be at war with Argentina if in 1945 "the Labour government had removed the management."

Many contributions dealt with the hypocrisy of the Tories. Thatcher and Co had calculated how many lives they were prepared to sacrifice in the interests of saving their power and prestige. All the talk of



Task force landing craft. The arms manufacturers are making huge profits out of the war.

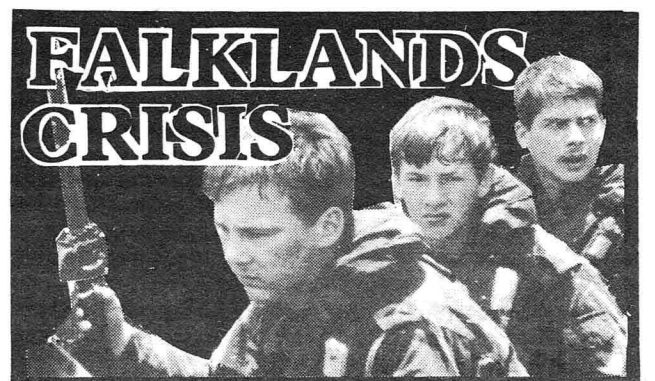
'defending democracy' was nothing but flannel. If the Argentinian workers had asked Thatcher to help

them overthrow the Junta and restore democracy, would she have rushed to their aid?

One comrade described how the arms suppliers and manufacturers were making huge profits, not to mention the T-shirt manufacturers who were selling 'Keep the Fleet' and 'Don't cry for me Argentina' shirts in the Portsmouth area.

The interest generated by

the meeting and the new 'Militant' pamphlet on the Falklands means that further meetings and discussions will be held in Gosport. It is clear that increasingly, the Tories won't be able to pull the Union Jack over everyone's eyes.



LPYS *in action*

Throughout the country the Labour Party Young Socialists have been at the forefront of the struggles of working class youth. Whether demonstrating against the Tories or organising youth on YOPS schemes, the LPYS is in the lead.

LEEDS

This Saturday (May 29) hundreds of unemployed and YOP workers are expected to take part in a lobby of the media, which has the support of the AUEW and NUPE in the area, along with West Leeds Labour Party, and the Labour Party Young Socialists.

The Lobby is being organised to highlight the plight of the 40,000 unemployed in Leeds, and the slave labour conditions on YOP schemes. The march assembles at 11 am in front of Leeds Polytechnic, and after a march through town, will end with a rally which will be addressed by Tom Sawyer (NUPE Deputy General Secretary), Pat Wall (President Bradford Trades Council), and Kevin Ramage (LPYS).

DARTFORD

Newly set up Dartford LPYS recently held a day of action, supported by members of Erith & Crayford, and Medway, LPYS branches. 19 copies of Militant were sold, and many people in Dartford will be aware of the fight for socialist policies from now on.

BRISTOL

A recent visit by Tory 'Employment' secretary, Norman Tebbit, to a YOP workshop wasn't quite the public relations exercise he had hoped for! Met outside by demonstrators, when he got in he was presented by a petition signed by trainees of the Natham Rd



Selling Militant during the 25 February YOPs lobby of Parliament when 3,000 YOPsters joined the lobby and rally.

By Militant Reporters

workshop:

"Dear Mr Tebbit, We the trainees of Bristol Youth Workshop are very concerned about your policies regarding Youth Employment.

We have given consideration to 'walking-out' when you arrive, to demonstrate the strength of feeling that exists amongst young people about the way they are being treated. Instead we have decided to remain in the project and welcome the opportunity to persuade you to change your policies. We believe the following issues are of great importance:

1. That there should be no element of compulsion on any YOP schemes. School leavers should remain eligible to receive Supplementary

Benefit if they are not on a YOP scheme.

2. There should be no deduction in the Trainee Allowance to £15 per week as you propose but this allowance should be increased to £30 per week for all trainees.

3. That your government takes immediate action to provide the opportunity for proper job options for everyone. YOP is no substitute."

FIRE BRIGADES UNION

Fourteen members of the Fire Brigades Union executive each donated £2 to the YOP Trainees Union Rights Campaign, following a discussion at the union conference on YOPs, which Ken Cameron (General Secretary) summed up by endorsing the words of Oxford delegate, Malcolm Saunders, who called on the union to follow the lead given by the LPYS in fighting against the ex-

ploitation of YOPs.

NSMM

At the National Society of Metal Mechanics conference, over 50 delegates signed a petition offering help to circulate LPYS literature in their workplaces and union branches, and the conference passed a resolution calling for the union to follow the lead of the YOP Trainees Union Rights Campaign, the TGWU and NUPE, in organising YOP workers and fighting against cheap labour.

MANCHESTER

Young Socialists and members of YTURC are currently building support for a demonstration under the slogan 'Youth Against Cheap Labour.' The demo, on Saturday, June 19, meets at the Salford precinct, 11 am, marching through Hulme and Manchester to a rally at the Free Trade Hall.

Build Socialist Youth sales

By Willie Griffin

At the recent LPYS National Committee a number of decisions were taken to radically increase the circulation of the LPYS paper 'Socialist Youth'.

Willie Griffin (SY Editor) reported that the income for the first three weeks in May for SY had been over £1,500. If this figure can be maintained through June, July and August combined with a concerted drive by every LPYS branch to sell at least 50 copies per issue, then SY can become a real spearhead for recruitment to the LPYS, and its financial future guaranteed.

There are plenty of opportunities coming up to boost 'Socialist Youth' sales! Apart from a massive LPYS presence at the Labour Party Womens Festival (June 5) and the CND demonstration (June 6), many regions are organising local demonstrations in the next month or so, reflecting the continuing growth of the LPYS as the biggest political youth movement in the country.

LPYS branches in Scotland are visiting factories all over Strathclyde in the build up to their demonstration and rally in protest against the pay and conditions on YOPs schemes, which takes place in Glasgow on June 9, with speakers from NUPE and TGWU as well as the LPYS.

On the same day, Coventry SE LPYS and Manchester LPYSs have



Buy 'Socialist Youth'! Available from the LPYS, 150 Walworth Road, London SE17.

organised demonstrations in protest against Tory policies.

A week following, the East Midlands LPYS are hoping to get up to 1,000 on their demonstration through the streets of Nottingham. On Tyneside, July 17, it is 'D-Day'—Demonstration day—when hundreds of youth will take to the streets alongside the LPYS demanding socialist policies to end unemployment and cheap labour exploitation of youth.

Other areas are planning street meetings, and mass days of action during June, July and August to use the benefit of the 'Summer' weather. Make sure your YS starts drawing up plans now—and let 'Socialist Youth' know about them (deadline for July/August edition is June 7).

A WELCOME FOR PRINCESS ANNE

Last month our area received a visit from Princess Anne to unveil a plaque for a firm's 100 years of trading.

YS members, however, had done their homework and found out that the firm, Thomas French & Sons, has one of the worst records of many multinationals for exploiting black employees at its four South African subsidiaries. In 1979 it paid trainees at its Johannesburg plant £10 for a 45-hour week.

The attitude of the firm's management was personified in the form of the Chairman when he came out to speak to us on the day of the picket. He said, "£40 is a lot for a black man straight out of the

bush." This remark incensed YS members who made their voices heard when Princess Anne arrived.

A YS member gave an interview to Granada TV and several papers explaining our attitude to South Africa and solidarity between trade unionists.

Although initially our picket met with hostility from some trade unionists from surrounding factories who had been given ten minutes off to cheer Princess Anne, when we explained how apartheid affects British workers and pointed out how bosses use cheap labour to undermine the trade union movement, we met a sympathetic response and many younger workers snatched our

placards from us and joined us in our slogans.

Although the Granada interview did not appear our demo was reported in the Daily Star and the Manchester Evening News. Although many people in our CLP did not want us to demonstrate so near to the municipal elections we felt it was our task to try and educate local trade unionists and show that the Labour Party is a principled campaigning party and not simply an election machine.

By Wythenshawe LPYS

CND march June 6



Join the LPYS contingents on the CND march! There will be three main marches:

Hampstead Road NW1. Assemble from 11 am: Scotland, Midlands, Yorkshire, North and North West. Look for Hackney Central LPYS banner and North East London LPYS branches.

Belvedere Road SE1 (by County Hall) from 11 am: Women, South London, East London, Eastern, Youth CND, Student CND. Look for Dulwich LPYS banner.

Ladbroke Grove W11 from 11 am: West and North West London, Southern, South West and Wales. Look for Paddington LPYS banner. Rally at Hyde Park.

Lifting the lid off Tory youth

A major political party is to investigate, 'forgery,' 'smears' and 'infiltration' amongst its youth organisations.

No, these are not right wing claims about the Labour Party Young Socialists. That sort of 'news' would have been screamed out by the Tory press from Lands End to John O'Groats.

The youth organisation concerned is the Federation of Conservative Students and the parent Tory Party is now discovering some unsavoury facts.

On 4 May, the Conservative National Union, the voluntary wing of the party, announced its enquiry. Firstly they will look at allegations that the Thatcherite right wing of the FCS used a 'slush fund' at the FCS conference in Sheffield in order to maintain its control of the group.

The inquiry should look to the 'New Statesman' (24 April, 1981). Here reporter Michael Coren told how Tories contacted him as a former student, and asked him to be a delegate. When he arrived, Coren claims, "Young (the then FCS chairman) gave me £22 cash for registration fee and, in addition, I was able to claim £30 expenses.

"In return I was expected to support the right wing

By Bob Wade

slate for the FCS executive. According to one of Young's supporters the number of FCS associations doubled in the week preceding the conference, though not all the rigging came from the right. On the day of the elections forty young Conservatives from Yorkshire were bussed in to vote for the moderate candidates."

On this subject, the inquiry will also look into allegations that "American money has been used to finance right-wing malpractice" ('The Times', May 5). And, according to the same newspaper report, "It will consider allegations that nomination papers for five FCS candidates standing for positions on the National Union of Students executive at the NUS conference in Blackpool in Easter included forgeries."

While this sort of shenanigans may be expected from the youth section of the party of big business, the inquiry will also look into the more serious question of open collusion with fascist groups by the right wing of the FCS.

Given the stark Toryism of the right-wing and their

increasing drift towards reaction, they are finding more common ground with the Nazi groups. The 'New Statesman' (24 April 1981) reported how at the '81 FCS conference, 'moderates' were met with chants of 'communist pervert' and 'queer', the Conservative Campaign for Homosexuality stall was vandalised, and the Scottish FCS songbook (banned by the Tory Party) included the Hitler Youth anthem and racist songs.

At the conference itself a 'skinhead youth wearing a black shirt and large Union Jack paraded around.' Last year at the North London Polytechnic an FCS member told the students union that the FCS would be closing down and a British Movement branch set up instead.

But when the Tory inquiry has finished with the FCS, it should turn to its other youth group, the Young Conservatives, who aren't just a harmless 'marriage bureau' for middle class buffoons.

The inquiry should read issues of the anti-fascist journal 'Searchlight', where it will find many examples of collusion between the YCs and fascist groups.

The Hertford branch invited the Cambridge National Front parliamentary candidate to speak, in the late '70s. Richard Hubbard, vice-chairman of York University Conservative Association is also a member of the extreme right wing American 'John Birch Society' and supporter of 'Antidote', a

small unofficial Tory journal which actually supported the paranoid 'Jewish conspiracy theory' of the fascists.

The Banstead YCs who in 1979 invited Enoch Powell to speak and welcomed the British Movement and National Front members who attended the meeting.

Or perhaps the inquiry should be reminded of summer last year, when a number of expulsions followed reports that the Solent YCs held a joint meeting with Portsmouth NF, with similar cases being reported in Coventry, West London, Petts Wood, South Shields and Preston.

But even if the Tories lifted the lid off the cesspool of reaction and racism evident in their youth organisations, they would logically have to turn on the party itself.

The extreme right wing of the party based around the Monday Club, have throughout the years supported repatriation and blatant racism, and had close ties with the various fascist groups. The latest umbrella group, WISE (Welsh, Irish, Scots, English), has the support of several Tory MPs.

This group have held meetings where Tories have openly mixed with Nazis; at one meeting, Tory MP for Basildon, Harvey Proctor, after his speech had a vote of thanks moved from the floor by leading NF member Andrew Fountaine.

At another meeting, with the *Daily Express* Foreign Editor speaking, the chairman was a member of the New National Front.

As 'Militant' has always stressed, while the many nazi groups should be actively fought by the labour movement, the biggest future threat of reaction in Britain will come from the 'pinstripe fascists' of the extreme right of the Tory Party. The FCS episode merely gives a glimpse of future developments.

'Red Ardwick' victory

Elections to Manchester City Council once more vindicated the left in the Labour Party and in particular the ideas of the *Militant*.

Despite the hysterical red scare campaign conducted by the SDP, those who stood clearly on the left in the Rusholme, Longsight and Fallowfield wards had an 'unexpected' clean sweep.

Militant supporter John Byrne was elected in Longsight, topping the poll and demonstrating the lie of the right wing that Marxist ideas lose votes. John, an AUEW shop steward, aims to give a lead to 'Red Ardwick' as its first Marxist councillor, building a campaigning Labour Party.

The LPYS will help him out with street meetings and leafletting campaigns to explain the policies needed over the issues facing the workers of this inner city.

The LPYS played a major part in John's election, holding a march through the area, canvassing, fly-posting and visiting the local shopkeepers.

Now the youth will have a voice in the city council and the workers will have a firm supporter in their struggle to get the right-wing dominated Labour council to implement its promise of no more cuts, redundancies or rent increases and to fight the Tories.

By Phil Frampton

Militant Readers' Meetings

Militant Readers meetings are being held throughout the country on many subjects, from the policies *Militant* stands for, to the Falklands war.

In North East London, Militant supporters celebrated the recent 600th issue of the paper with a public meeting addressed by Terry Fields, of the Fire Brigades Union Executive. Terry outlined the failings of Monetarism, not only in Britain but in Argentina too. Nearly 70 people attended.

In Shanklin on the Isle of Wight, Nick Brooks of Southampton Labour Party described the growth in support for *Militant* at a 'What We Stand For' meeting. £30

was raised for the fighting fund.

The SDP were the subject for discussion at a readers' meeting in Norwich, where the speaker explained the tactics needed by Labour to fight the Social Democrat renegades. A collection raised £23 which was excellent, given the many unemployed and school students amongst the audience.

The bringing down of the Heath government in the early seventies was examined at a meeting in Derby, when NUR rep Bill Esmonds spoke on 'the unions and Tebbits Law'.

For details of a Militant Readers Meeting in your area, turn to page 13.

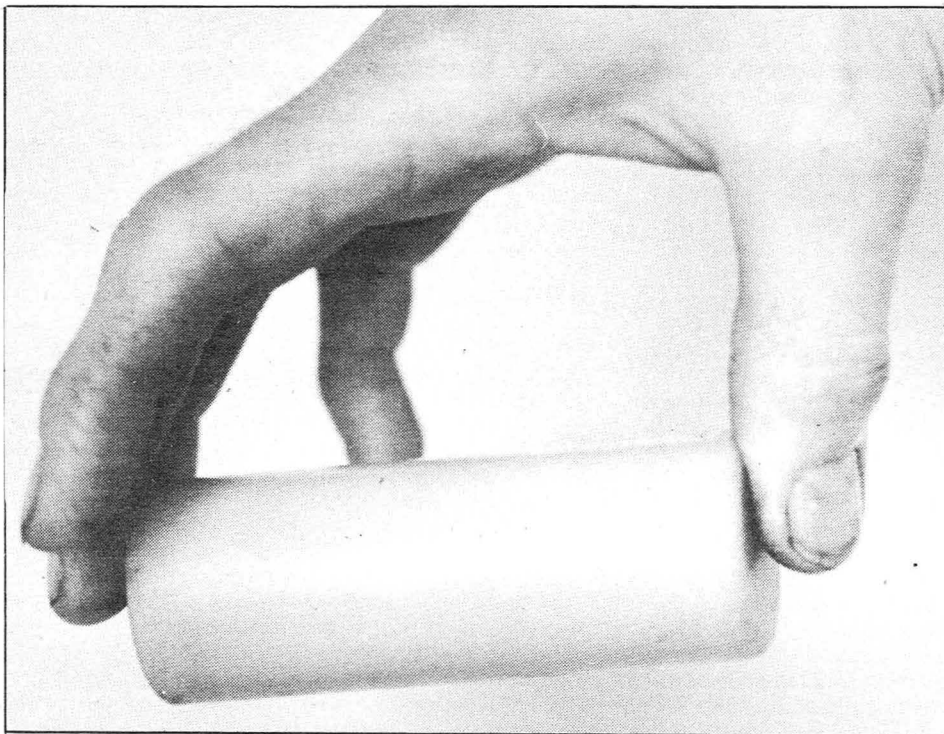
PLASTIC BULLETS IN NOTTS?

Last weekend on the St. Anns Estate, Nottingham, a man locked himself in an attic with a hatchet. Local police were called to get him out. They used CS gas "in case he hurt himself."

Local Labour Party members were surprised to find that Nottinghamshire police had such drastic weapons. We were even more surprised when one member reported that the chairman of the County Council Police committee had refused to tell a local radio interviewer whether the police had plastic bullets on the grounds that it was "not a matter for public comment." Why should a representative of a Labour County Council keep such a question secret?

At our branch meeting we were assured that this councillor was retiring from the police committee chairmanship the next day and that the matter would be sorted out. But the Labour Party will want to know whether the police have these weapons and why this issue has not been reported to the labour movement and fully discussed.

After last summer's riots,



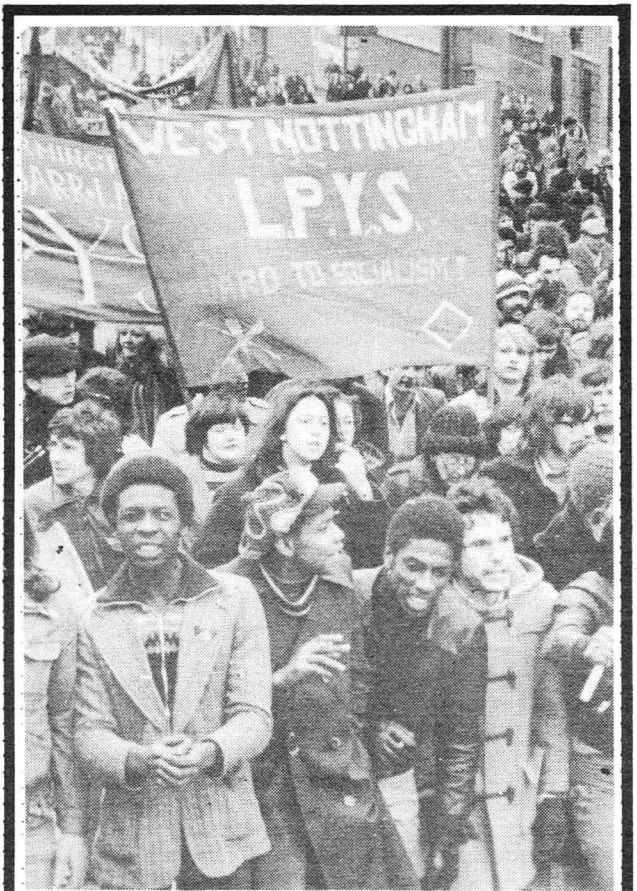
police chiefs no doubt want to stock up for this summer. Are Labour councils letting this happen without even telling Party members or the public?

Or are the police tops so free from democratic control that local authorities don't even know?

Plastic bullets have killed

on the streets of Northern Ireland. *Militant* warned that measures tried out there would spread to the mainland. We warn today that "riot control" methods introduced now, will be used against the labour movement tomorrow. How long before these weapons are used on

A plastic bullet. In Northern Ireland, 14 people have been killed by rubber and plastic bullets, seven of them children. Photo: Militant



Labour Party Young Socialists Black Youth Conference

3-4 July, Birmingham
Information leaflets now available
Contact: Black Youth Campaign
A Bevan, 150 Walworth Road
London S.E.17.

By Tony Cross

demonstrations and picket lines?

Labour must oppose such extensions of police armouries and demand full democratic control of the police.



AUEW leadership confusion

Does the right hand leadership of the engineering union, AUEW, know what the other right hand is doing? Last week the AUEW announced that it was providing money to enable the wife of imprisoned South African nationalist leader, Nelson Mandela, to visit him in jail. This is fully in line with British labour movement policy of total opposition to apartheid.

But the week before, 'The Times' (11 May) reported, AUEW President, Terry Duffy, was in strange company indeed, attending a dinner, presided over by extreme right-wing Tory MP, Nicholas Winteron, for Dirk Mudge, head of the South African stooge regime in Namibia.

'The Times' stated that "Mudge tried hard to put over a sincere line about one nation and non-racism, while explaining how much he welcomed South African military assistance."

He said the West should stop the Russians, Cubans and East Germans getting hold of Southern Africa, and so save his government. According to the 'Times', "Duffy was quite won over by Mudge's remarks and promised to support him in the TUC international Committee." Labour Party policy is totally different. It is to support the struggle of Namibian workers and the liberation movement, SWAPO.

Worthwhile 4%

Any nurse or ancillary worker lugging round an oxygen cylinder to a heart patient might like to know that one director of the oxygen monopolists BOC Ltd, Mr R V Giordano received the small sum of £477,100 last year (£9,000 a week!).

If you are dispensing medicines to your patients, you might be relieved to know that one director of the Beecham pharmaceutical group, Sir Graham Wilkins, gets £115,611 per year, chicken feed compared to Giordano but it keeps the wolf from the door. And on top of this, they both probably get perks and a large income from shareholdings. Now four per cent of their income might be quite an acceptable rise.

SDP criticise union support

As in many London boroughs, the Social Democratic Party were annihilated in the borough council elections in Lewisham, with a number of Labour defectors losing their seats to Labour Party candidates.

One Labour defector standing for the first time, Mr Ken D'Cruze, told the world why he lost in a letter to the South London Press. It was all due to the deplorable fact that active trade union local government employees canvassed for Labour candidates. He had personally seen the Building Works convenor come out of a Labour Party committee room and he was going around knocking up Labour supporters urging them (shock, horror) to go to the polling stations. The deputy convenor was also canvassing, he complained, and "presumably other union members were assisting Labour candidates."

What makes this excuse all the laughable is that when D'Cruze was in the Labour Party and had been adopted as a Labour prospective parliamentary candidate, Mr D'Cruze wrote to his own nominally 'non-political' NALGO branch asking, unsuccessfully, for their support. But that was different, of course.

50 YEARS AGO

Although there has been a decline in union membership during the current recession, it is nothing like the catastrophic fall of the late 1920s and 1930s. In May 1932 the engineering union, AEU, reported that its membership had fallen by another seven hundred over the previous month, and was now down to 202,090. This contrasted with a membership in 1920 of 459,000.

The leadership put forward the 'agreement for the avoidance of disputes'. By contrast today's AUEW leadership was forced by rank and file pressure to undertake the first national engineering strike for decades when they achieved a reduction in hours in 1979.

STOP THE WEALTH SERVICE

By Myrna Shaw (NUPE)

The Thatcher government's war on NHS spending doesn't only hit at workers in the Health Service. Thousands of hospital bed spaces have been lost as the Tories encourage the move to private health schemes.

A report on Inequalities in Health by Sir Douglas Black, the president of the Royal College of Physicians of London in 1980 showed that working class families suffered most from ill health.

For example, babies of semi skilled and unskilled workers were twice as likely to die in their first year as those born in middle class homes. "Longstanding illness" is two and a half times as likely among women in unskilled jobs as amongst professional women.

A return to private health would increase the inequalities drastically. And the Tories are trying to use their new Employment Bill to stop NHS workers taking action on the question of private health care.

The Tory press snorted with rage when Yorkshire miners took action in support of health workers, suggesting it would infringe Tebbit's bill.

Likewise, the *Times Health Supplement* made a special point on its front page (5 March 1982) that "The campaign by trade unions against the private health sector will be dealt a severe blow when the government's Employment Bill, now in its committee stages, is approved by parliament.

"Its most potent weapon, industrial action, will be made unlawful." They mean industrial action to black pay beds, to oppose private contractors or to thwart health authority policies would be against

the law.

However, a certain lack of confidence in the government's privatisation plans is exhibited by the private health scheme BUPA. According to their own advertising material, BUPA only exists to help members meet the cost of private medical treatment, but increasingly they show a tendency to grab for new members.

They are now offering a special low cost scheme to doctors in the Hospital Consultants and Specialists Association—the ones whose training we paid for and who should be fighting

the hardest for the NHS!

With some justification, BUPA points out that private medicine as usually purveyed to workers desperate for help is a very costly affair, with a bed in a provincial hospital costing £600 a week and in London £850—before treatment!

But all sorts of special offers regarding charges are made for the consultants. The really interesting point is that consultants and specialists, unlike individual applicants, are not required to furnish medical details before they are taken on. Chronic illnesses do not ap-

pear to be a bar in their case and no questions would appear to be asked about the health of dependent children.

Of course when the consultant reaches retirement age or leaves the NHS he transfers to the common or garden BUPACARE, "subject to a satisfactory declaration of health."

The health service must be defended against these wealth schemes which threaten even more the health of working people, even if the law has to be broken to do so.



In Hammersmith Hospital, London this month nurses have been performing their duties out of uniform in protest against 4% pay offer. Photo: S Cagnoni (IFL)

SAVE THE HEALTH SERVICE

"Today marks a real step forward. The unity of the different health service unions is our only guarantee of victory," said Dilwyn Davies, NUPE Hospitals branch secretary opening a mass meeting of Leicestershire health workers on 19 May.

The ambulance workers got a particularly warm welcome when they arrived at the meeting. Graham Davis, G&MWU shop steward from Lutterworth told us, "We are sick of low pay.

"We're all conscientious and care about the job, but caring for patients doesn't pay the bills. All we get is peanuts."

The ambulance workers had agreed to do emergency cover for the one day strike, but they had a letter from management saying they would only get half pay for the day! So they walked out.

No doubt management and the local press will

castigate them for having no feelings for the sick and suffering, but those claims ring hollow against the background of vicious cut-backs in the health service.

A survey a few years ago in a leading women's magazine said, "If you care about your health don't live in Leicester." Leicestershire is second bottom in financial handouts among the country's fourteen health regions.

Five hundred people in Leicestershire have been waiting for over four years for operations. We have watched one neighbour suffering and mobility get worse with arthritis, as he has had to wait two years for a hip replacement operation.

Yet a vital new hospital for Leicestershire could be threatened with closure before it even opens. Building of the £10.5m first phase is scheduled for completion in 1984.

According to Grenville

Janner, Labour MP for Leicester West, "If building is stopped now, the expenditure necessary to postpone the development would be about £400,000 a year just to cover rates and maintenance costs."

But Enid Khan, NALGO shop steward pointed out that money for the health service is available. £250 million insurance has been paid out for the QE2 and £150,000 per day to 'hire' it during the Falklands dispute.

"By striking we are showing our support for the NHS. Our message to Thatcher is 'You won't topple us but we could topple you!'"

Dilwyn Davies said the Tories had got us into a mess over the Falkland Islands and called for a General Election now to get a decent government in for a change.

Amelia Williams, shop steward and nurse at the General Hospital, pointed out that the judges have

been awarded a £7,000 a year rise. "How many here even earn £7,000 a year, let alone get a £7,000 rise! Aneurin Bevan had a dream. We must make sure it's not turned into a fantasy."

Derek Hilling, LPYS National Committee member, addressed the meeting on behalf of the LPYS and was warmly received when he called for the bringing down of the Tory government and the election of a Labour government different to the last one—one committed to fighting for socialist policies.

By Heather Rawling and Pauline Maniscalco

(Leicester West CLP)

Sylvia Pankhurst

Suffragette and class fighter

The names of the Pankhurst family are synonymous with the struggle to win the vote for women, but what distinguished Sylvia Pankhurst's approach from that of her mother Emmeline and her sister Christabel were class issues.

It resulted in the 1920's, after nearly twenty years of struggle, with Emmeline standing as Tory Parliamentary candidate and Sylvia becoming a founder member of the British Communist Party.

The seeds of such a divide were there from the early days of the suffragette organisation, the Women's Social and Political Union. Founded in 1903 by Emmeline, Christabel Pankhurst and others, the WSPU was first conceived of as an auxiliary to the labour movement to secure equal rights for women. But during the early 1900's it developed an entirely in-

desire was to paint and perhaps it was a tour of Northern towns in 1907, painting the working class at home and at work, that brought home to her the exploitation in industry, agriculture and through bad housing conditions, the lack of sanitation. This experience along with her activity in the East End resulted in Sylvia questioning the tactics of the WSPU, the increased militancy, stone throwing and the hunger strikes. This was not because she was not prepared to go on hunger strike; between June 1913 and June 1914 Sylvia endured 10 hunger and thirst strikes.

What was needed, she said, was "not more serious militancy by the few but a

The life of Sylvia Pankhurst is rich in experience for all activists in the labour movement. This month, which sees the hundredth anniversary of her birth, JEN PICKARD looks back over her life and legacy.

WSPU and the WSPU itself in January 1914, and the formation of the East London Federation of Suffragettes (ELFS). One argument used by Christabel against the East London Federation was that it had a democratic constitution and relied too heavily on working class women (she argued, in effect, that the fight for women's votes shouldn't apply within the WSPU itself!).

This split in the WSPU reflected a general polarisation taking place in British society. Between 1911 and 1914 every key section of workers (dockers, transport, railway workers, engineers) were involved in strikes. Even amongst the members of the WSPU, who were imprisoned and force fed, it was working class women who suffered the worst conditions and treatment.

There were so many women in prison and on hunger strike that the government had to introduce the 1913 'Temporary Discharge for Ill-Health' Bill (or as it became known, the Cat and Mouse Act) whereby women were discharged until they were well enough to be re-arrested and complete their prison sentence.

Under the editorship of Sylvia, the ELFS brought out the 'Women's Dreadnought'; an indication of ELFS's activity is illustrated by the 18 advertised meetings in the East End of London in the first issue of 21 March, 1914.

Like the rest of the labour movement however, the women's organisations were confused when the first World War broke out five months later. Emmeline and Christabel became enthusiastic supporters of the British War effort, suspending activities and agitation for the vote until the war was over.

Sylvia, like many in the labour movement, adopted a pacifist position. But she still carried on the suffrage campaign and the fight for fair wages for women, drawn into the factories to replace men sent off to war.

The first World War meant even greater hardship for working class families in the East End, and many turned to ELFS for help. They tried to help by putting in claims for poor relief, establishing a toy factory to aid employment, providing cost price restaurants and 'mother and infant centres' to ameliorate some distress.

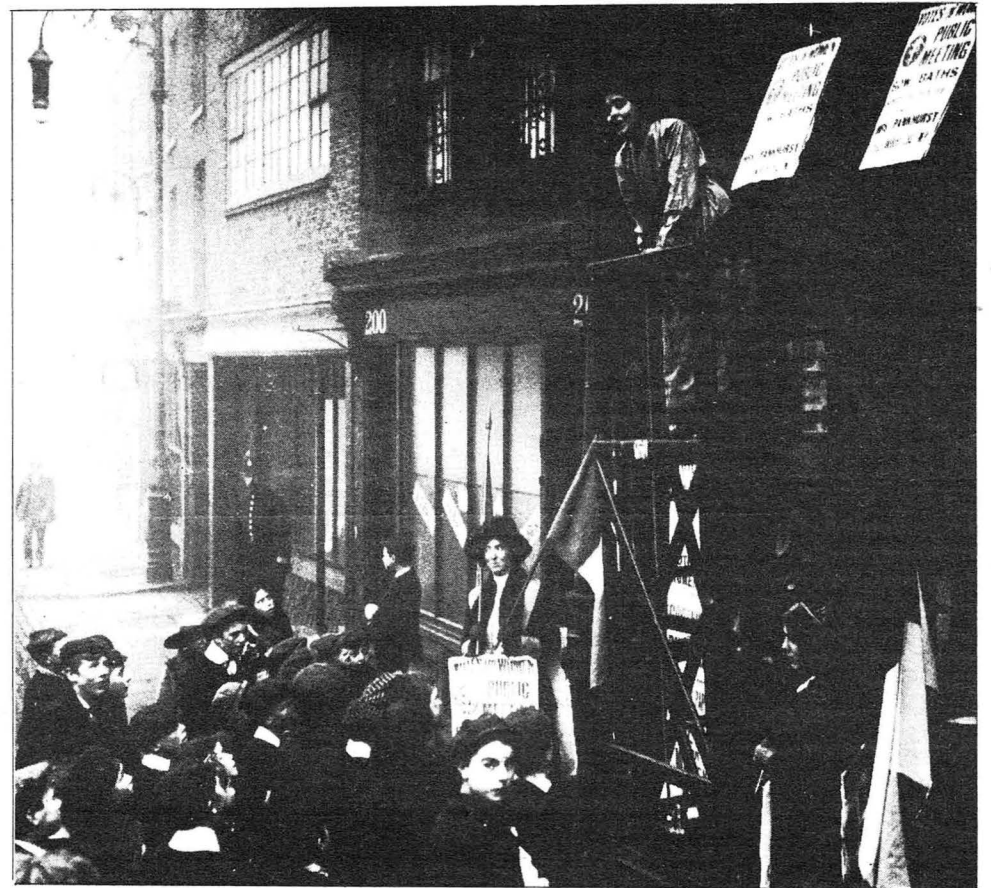
owners, university graduates etc. Although this was true, the vote for some women nevertheless showed the fear of the ruling class at the increased militancy of the women munitions workers and the fear that

The war and the Russian Revolution deepened Sylvia's understanding. By July 1917 the 'Women's Dreadnought' had become the 'Workers' Dreadnought', the organ of the Workers Socialist Federation, and Sylvia became a firm supporter of the Bolshevik Revolution earning herself the nickname 'Little Miss Russia'.

She called the 1918 extension of the vote to some women over 30 as 'fancy franchise' because the vote was limited to property



Above: Self portrait
Below: Addressing 'Votes for Women' meeting outside the East London Headquarters, 1912



the women's suffrage movement would link up with these and other workers towards the overthrow of capitalism.

After years of fighting for the right to vote in Parliamentary elections, Sylvia Pankhurst by now considered Parliament as an institution manipulated by the capitalist class, which should be abolished and that no Communists should participate in it. Lenin strongly argued against this viewpoint in his pamphlet *Left Wing Communism—an Infantile Disorder*.

War and revolution

The question of Parliament and the issue of affiliation to the Labour Party were stumbling blocks in the bringing together of various communist groupings in Britain. Sylvia argued that the British Communists "must keep its doctrine pure...its mission is to lead the way by the

direct road to the revolution."

Whilst Lenin recognised the instinctive hatred of the WSF for Parliamentary opportunists, he argued that boycott was wrong and that they should participate in all the struggles of the working class, winning their confidence and guiding the movement in the direction of socialist change. This, he stated, far from creating illusions in the reformist policies of the Labour Parliamentarians was in fact the only way to give a lead.

Although a founder member of the British Communist Party, Sylvia later became disillusioned and was horrified by the purges of Stalin and the trumped up charges against leading Bolsheviks during the 1930's Moscow Trials.

Her last 20 or so years were taken up with the fight against Fascism and the invasion of Ethiopia by Mussolini. *The New Times and Ethiopia News* which she established in May 1936 did not limit its coverage to Ethiopia but argued support for the republicans in Spain against Franco. She

died, aged 78 in 1960 in Ethiopia.

The legacy of Sylvia Pankhurst lives on. Her art, which she abandoned for the work of the WSPU, is being exhibited at Limehouse Town Hall, London for the next two months. But an even more important legacy was her own experience which taught that militancy and self sacrifice of women at home or at work must be linked to the struggle of the whole of the working class, and that the vote could only be a first step to opening the door to socialism.

More than 50 years have elapsed since all women won the vote in 1928 but exploitation and hardship is still with us. However more and more women are seeing their trade unions as the defenders of their interests, alongside the rest of the working class. It is to these sections that Labour Party Women's Sections must look and draw into political and industrial struggle if we are to build the society that Sylvia Pankhurst envisaged.

"I wanted to rouse these women of the submerged masses to be, not merely the argument for more fortunate people, but to be fighters on their own account despising mere platitudes and catch cries, revolting against the hideous conditions about them, and demanding for themselves and their families a full share in the benefits of civilisation and progress" Sylvia Pankhurst.

dependent existence severing its links with the organised working class.

The WSPU undoubtedly played a major role in publicising the issue of women's suffrage through demonstrations, imprisonments and sometimes violent campaigns. But Sylvia Pankhurst, in spite of her middle class background and relatively privileged position, found herself more and more drawn to the position of working class women.

Two years before the founding of the WSPU, women workers in the Lancashire cotton mills linked the right to suffrage to the removal of discrimination and exploitation and presented a petition of 29,000 signatures to Parliament demanding the vote. The mill owners so very considerably did not pay women workers the proper rate for the job because they didn't want to 'tempt women out of their proper place in the home looking after the children.'

More and more women were becoming involved in strikes and protest over wages and unemployment. In 1904 Sylvia Pankhurst and others organised a 1,000 strong march for jobs from London's East End to Westminster.

At this time Sylvia's main

stronger appeal to the great masses to join in the struggle." In 1912 she began full time work for the movement, abandoning her art, and rejecting the terrorist tactics of arson called for by Christabel in favour of a broader and more confident appeal to the people, particularly women, from London's East End. Rather than

Working class women

just coming to hear well known speakers she encouraged people to address meetings themselves in the streets and markets.

She addressed a meeting of 10,000 at the Albert Hall, organised by the Labour newspaper *Daily Herald*, to protest at a mass lockout of Dublin workers and the imprisonment of James Larkin for organising strikes. "Every day the industrial rebels and the suffrage rebels march nearer together", commented the *Daily Herald*.

These links did not go unnoticed by the suffragettes around Christabel who stressed the independence of the WSPU from all men's parties and led to the final break between the East London Federation of the

The Impasse of Argentine

Galtieri launched his expedition to seize the Falklands in an attempt to escape from the consequences of Argentina's profound social crisis.

Despite the regime's dictatorial powers, which have been used to crush trade union rights and imprison and torture the regime's opponents, the military rulers have not been able to cure Argentinian capitalism's dire economic problems.

Galtieri's Economic Minister, Dr. Juan Alemann, has been no more successful than his predecessor, Sr. Martinez de Hoz, who served as Economic Minister under General Videla. Alemann, a hard-line monetarist, has continued Hoz's policy of 'liberalising' the economy. In practice, this has meant ruthless cuts in government spending, particularly hitting social spending. State-controlled enterprises have been 'hived off' to private interests on a massive scale.

Nearly all restrictions on 'freedom of enterprise', particularly restrictions on the movement of capital, have been removed—turning the economy into a paradise for financiers, speculators, and grasping middle-men of every kind.

Millions of workers in the depths of poverty

The country, in fact, has become a kind of casino—a casino where the rich are guaranteed to win ever increasing prizes, while wage earners and the poor are guaranteed to lose. Millions of workers and unemployed have been pushed down into the depths of poverty.

One 'liberalising' measure alone, the introduction of dual exchange rates (one for 'trade' and one for 'finance'), has allowed speculators to make millions of dollars in profits.

Alemann abolished price controls on food and other necessities, thus removing the minimal protection for workers and the poor. They are now fully exposed to the ravages of inflation. This went down to a 'low point' of 87.6% under Hoz in 1980, but rapidly accelerated to well over 100% in 1981. Inflation is still rising—it is now thought to be over 150%—and has been given a new twist by the continued devaluation of the peso.

Alemann has also frozen wages and pensions in the public sector, as well as increasing fuel prices. When he was asked whether these draconian measures might not provoke social unrest, Alemann simply replied: "this is a strong government."

Another journalist asked him how wage earners could survive in the face of hyperinflation. The government, Alemann replied, could not

By Lynn Walsh

"take account of the personal problems of each and every individual!"

Such was the combined weight of millions and millions of 'personal' problems, however, that a new process of social convulsion and revolutionary crisis was in motion when Galtieri decided on the Falklands adventure.

With fabulous opportunities for speculative profits, Argentinian capitalists have little incentive to invest in production. Investment fell by 22% last year. The Gross National Product declined by 6%, and industrial output by 14%.

As production has declined, moreover, the country's foreign debts have risen enormously. Argentina now owes an estimated \$34,600 million (£19,450 m) to foreign banks.

The biggest share is owed to American banks (\$8,600m or £5,050m). But \$5,800 million is outstanding to British banks. With a population 9 million less than that of Poland, Argentina owes \$5,000 million more.

It for this reason that finance-capital in both America and Britain has been reluctant to see the implementation of effective economic sanctions. A default by Argentina—a declaration that it is unable to find the cash to service its debt, about \$7,000 million this year—would send a horrifying shock wave throughout world capitalism's financial and banking system.

All the major Latin American economies have suffered from a recession in the last few years. But none has suffered from such a decline as Argentina.

Argentina's wealth squandered

In 1931, hard as it may now be to believe, Argentina was the 8th richest nation in the world in terms of per capita income. It was richer than Canada, or New Zealand, and its natural resources seemed to promise the country a prosperous future.

By 1961, however, Argentina had dropped to 27th place. By 1980 it had declined to 65th place, according to World Bank figures.

Clearly, the Argentinian ruling class have squandered the country's

enormous agricultural, mineral and industrial resources. Potentially an enormously wealthy country, Argentina has degenerated under the weight of capitalist corruption, speculation, and mismanagement.

This, however, does not justify the conclusion drawn by some on the left (who claim to be Marxists) that Argentina's capitalist class is merely a class of compradors, and the country still has the position of a totally dependent, semi-colonial state.

This spurious analysis is put forward to justify support for Argentina—in fact, uncritical support for Argentina's dictatorship—against British imperialism.

A comprador capitalism is one dominated by the brokers of foreign capital and merchants who act as the local agents of big business based in the metropolitan capitalist states. They are tied to the traditional ruling class, based on landlordism, and invariably put obstacles in the way of indigenous capitalist development, which would be a threat to their position.

Comprador comes from the Portuguese word for buyer. But it is China towards the end of the nineteenth century and early this century which provides the classic example.

The compradors, the heads of British, French, and other foreign business houses, tended to dominate China's economic life. An embryonic native capitalist class attempted to clear the path for its own national development. But it was economically feeble, and politically ham-strung by its fear of China's relatively small but significant working class which put forward its own revolutionary working class demands in 1925-27. It was this which explained the inability of the national capitalists, under the bonapartist leadership of Chiang Kai-shek, to carry through a land reform, expel the Japanese imperialists, and achieve national unity and independence. There are still many cases of comprador capitalism in the under-developed countries, in states which are no longer colonies but are still dominated economically by imperialism in a 'neo-colonial' relationship.

In such colonial or semi-colonial countries, a national struggle against an imperialist power is inevitably linked to the struggle of the peasantry against landlordism. Marxists would support a national struggle against imperialism. But they would only give critical support to a national capitalist, or capitalist bonapartist leadership—while demanding the expropriation of the landlords and the taking over of industry by the working class.

In the case of an attempt by American imperialism—or British imperialism, if that can be imagined—to subjugate Argentina, putting it under direct colonial domination, Marxists



Under Peron's regime from 1946 to 1952 there was a policy of developing Argentine industry

would support a national struggle against imperialism. But at the same time, Marxists would stand for the independent organisation of the working class on the basis of a socialist programme. This is the only way in which imperialism could be defeated and genuine national liberation achieved.

However, the attempt by some pseudo-Marxists to portray Argentina as a semi-colonial country, dominated by a comprador class is absurd.

It is true that for more than a century the country has been dominated by an oligarchy of big pampas farmers. However, from the beginning—when they forced out, and partly exterminated the indigenous Indian population—they were capitalist farmers, producing cash crops for the home and especially the world market, and employing wage labour. Most of them are now highly mechanised agricultural producers.

At the end of the nineteenth century and the beginning of this century, the big farmers branched out into industry. Inevitably, this was in alliance with foreign capital, which has always played a major role in the development of Argentina. Nevertheless, Argentina has developed into a semi-industrialised country, with its own industrial capitalist class and also a developed finance-capital of its own.

Under Peron's regime from 1946 to 1952, there was a policy of developing Argentine industry behind a wall of protective tariffs. This was helped by the rise in world commodity prices, and the continued demand for grain and meat from America and Western Europe.

This policy was met with opposition from the traditional agricultural capitalists, with whom the army's officer caste was closely allied. However, Peron's policy of conces-

sions to the working class and the implementation of social reforms on the basis of industrial development, secured him the support of the majority of the labour movement, and gave rise to the Peronist tradition that continues today.

After the army ousted Peron in 1952, there was a return to policies which favoured the big capitalist farmers and the financiers and speculators with whom they are linked.

The return of Peron in 1973

After two decades of dictatorship, however, the undermining of Lanusse's military government opened the way to new elections, with the election in 1973 of Hector Campora as president—paving the way for the return of Peron.

The memory of gains under Peron's government made the Peronist organisations the main channel of working class opposition. But Peron's political resurrection took place under entirely different conditions, with the world economy slipping into recession and a sharpening of the contradictions within the country.

Peron came back on an enormous wave of strikes and demonstrations, as the workers strove to find a way to change the system. But Peron could neither revitalise the economy, nor give significant concessions to the working class. Disillusionment inevitably set in, while the old oligarchy and the officer caste prepared to take their revenge.

Peron died in 1974 and his second wife took over, only to be deposed by the 1976 coup which established the present regime. Within

the rotten framework of capitalism, there were no solutions, especially after the 1974-75 recession which marked the end of the long post-war upswing.

Because of traditional loyalties, however, Peronism still remains a force, and when the military falls the workers' movement may well be dominated once again by Peronist leaders. Yet unless the working class is armed with a Marxist programme and perspective, Argentina will be doomed to go through another phase of the terrible cycle of popular upsurge and military reaction. Only the working class, mobilising independently under a Marxist leadership, can find a way out.

Since the return of a the military in 1976, Argentinian capitalism has proved incapable of further industrial development. Ruinous speculation has been the order of the day, with the mushrooming of the country's foreign debts. Clearly, Argentine capitalism is in hock to the bankers of the metropolitan capitalist countries. But this does not mean that Argentina has returned to a position of comprador dependency! A few crucial statistics reveal the absurdity of this position.

In 1977, industry accounted for 45% of GNP, compared to 13% for agriculture (and 42% for services). Manufactured goods, it is true, account for only 22.7% of the country's exports, compared to 65.5% for food and agriculture, which reflects the inability of Argentine industry to compete on world markets.

However, the urban population now accounts for over 82% of the total population. 29% of the active population work in industry, compared to only 14% in agriculture (57% work in the enormous service sector).

In other words, Argentina, despite its continued neo-colonial subservience to American, West European and Japanese big business, nevertheless has the characteristics of a semi-industrialised, capitalist economy—dominated by its own capitalist class.

There is, in fact, an imperialistic element in Argentinian capitalism's claim to the Falklands. This has brought them into collision

Falklands adventure to stave off revolution

with British imperialism, an enfeebled and decrepit power compared to the past, but still more powerful economically and militarily than Argentina.

Galtieri invaded the Islands for political reasons, to stave off the threat of revolution. But in the background are the greedy ambitions of the Argentinian magnates, who would like to augment their income by the exploitation of Antarctica's natural resources. They could only do this, however, as a junior partner of foreign

Capitalism

U.S. Latin America policy goes up in smoke



"To the Death" (above) the crowds in Buenos Aires acclaim the liberation of the Falklands



The other side of the coin—Peronist demonstrators show the enormous opposition building up against the regime.



Conscript soldiers on £7 a month sent to the Malvinas for Argentine big business.

The Falklands crisis has come as a severe blow to the Reagan Administration. It is an armed conflict between two of American imperialism's staunchest allies.

Inevitably, the US Administration has been drawn into a crisis which probably cannot be resolved without the fall of at least one of the two contending governments. Both countries are, in reality, client states, though to differing degrees. Both depend on American economic and military power. The fall of either Thatcher or Galtieri would be a severe set-back to Reagan's foreign policy. This accounts for Haig's desperate 'shuttle diplomacy' in the days following the Junta's seizure of the Islands.

In each capital, Haig reportedly argued that a compromise was necessary to save the other government. But with both Thatcher and Galtieri staking their governments on a successful resolution of the crisis, neither side was prepared to compromise.

US forced to abandon its role as "honest broker"

Diplomacy is only a form of bargaining, and successful diplomacy involves 'give and take.' But on both sides, the power and prestige of the regime have been at stake, and neither was prepared to concede anything of substance. US imperialism, through the Haig mission, was therefore unable to avert a war between Britain and Argentina.

Once diplomacy was exhausted, moreover, and the fighting began, US imperialism was forced to abandon its stance as 'honest broker' and take sides. Faced with this stark choice, the US Administration was obliged to side with Britain, although Reagan came to this decision only very slowly and reluctantly.

Britain, however, is still US imperialism's major ally, the linch-pin of the NATO military alliance and a crucial support on the world arena. But siding with Britain, however reluctantly, has meant abandoning the Galtieri regime to its fate.

Given the present economic and strategic balance, this will probably mean, in the end, a defeat for Argentina's military police dictatorship. That in turn would mean the fall of Galtieri, opening up a new period of revolutionary developments for Argentina, with incalculable repercussions for the whole of Latin America.

After Reagan took over as President, Argentina was given a key role in US im-

By Tim Moody

perialism's policy for Latin and Central America. Reagan, as *The Times* (4 May) recently reported, "has been assiduously courting the military Junta in Buenos Aires." The State Department sees the junta as a bulwark against the spread of "Communism" throughout the Continent.

By this, the US means both an increase in the influence of the Russian bureaucracy, but also—and more dangerously for them—the development of revolutionary movements of Latin America's powerful industrial working class.

Not only have Argentina's brutal military rulers crushed the movement of the working class in Argentina, suppressing trade union and other democratic rights, but they have been helping to prop up the reactionary Bolivian regime and giving support to the military-backed governments of Paraguay and Uruguay.

Washington's fears about what may follow the fall of Galtieri are shared in Latin American capitals. The present Brazilian regime, for instance, has come out in support of Argentina's seizure of the Falklands — out of 'Latin American solidarity.' However, the Brazilian press, which undoubtedly reflects the view of Brazilian big business, is strongly critical of Galtieri's policies.

They are afraid that the failure of his military adventure will mean his downfall, and a new lurch to the left in Argentina. "There is increasing concern in official circles (in Brazil) that the crisis is likely to lead to the fall of President Galtieri, and his probable replacement by a military-populist figure of the General Peron variety. This, in Brazil's view, could cause a political destabilisation of the whole region, and not just Argentina." (*The Times*, 4 May).

Neither Washington nor the Latin American dictators will forget the repercussions of Somoza's fall in Nicaragua on events in El Salvador and elsewhere in Central America.

American policy is based on the protection of its own strategic-military and economic interests.

US multinational corporations have enormous amounts of capital invested in Latin America, investments which return higher profits than almost any other region of the globe. Central and South America are also important as suppliers of food and raw materials and as a crucial source of strategically important minerals. The so-called 'anti-Communist crusade' is based on support for some of the world's

most ruthless dictatorships, military-bonapartist regimes which use fascist methods of savage repression, torture, and mass intimidation.

In this murderous crusade, the Argentine military rulers were to play an important part. This has only now been exposed in the British press.

"Various ventures," reported *The Times* (4 May), "were being planned with the Argentines, ranging from naval vigilance in the South Atlantic to the support and training of anti-communist forces in Central America. Argentina was involved in the planning of a pan-Latin American 'army of peace' to act throughout the continent as anti-Communist, anti-subversive force. A reported United States plan for covert action to destabilize the left-wing regime in Nicaragua was also said to involve troops from the elite Argentine counter-insurgency unit, known as Conin."

America's policy in Latin America is bound to lurch from crisis to crisis. This would be so even without the Falklands crisis, although this will now add enormously to the imperialism's difficulties.

Capitalism is incapable of taking the continent forward. All the rotten, dictatorial regimes propped up for decades by American imperialism, are crumbling. Ruthless dictatorship has proved incapable of solving the social and economic crisis.

Enormous power of Argentine workers

Only the working class can provide a way out, and countries like Argentina and Brazil have big working classes, with enormous potential power. Armed with a clear Marxist programme and perspective they could rapidly topple the dictators, abolish capitalism and landlordism, and begin the socialist reconstruction of the continent.

Then, the Falklands problem would pale into insignificance. Within a Socialist Federation, the democratic rights of the Falkland Islanders would be assured and their living standards enormously improved.

With the appearance of workers' states in one or two of the major Latin American countries, the days of US capitalism and imperialism would be numbered. In front of the television cameras.

Reagan, with his simplistic, reactionary vision of the world, makes confident speeches. But there can be no doubt that the representatives of American capitalism are increasingly experiencing terrible nightmares about the prospect of revolution in Latin America.

POLAND

SOUTH AFRICA

Polish workers regaining confidence

By John
Pickard

Only five months after the declaration of Martial Law and the banning of Solidarity, it is clear that the Polish bureaucracy is incapable of destroying the will of the Polish working class.

Despite the continued internment of 4000 Solidarity leaders, new clandestine groups of workers have been involved in the organisation of protests and demonstrations, and these show unmistakably their growing confidence. As the *Le Monde* correspondent commented, "Each day the barrier of fear drops a little."

Workers were involved in protest demonstrations on 1 May and on 3 May, involving serious clashes with riot police. Almost 1,400 workers were arrested as riots exploded in 13 of Poland's cities.

In Warsaw, there were over eight hours of riots, with the police having to use tear gas bombs and water cannon to disperse the crowds. In Gdansk, the shipbuilding city where Solidarity was born, five thousand workers tried to take over the centre of the city and the police barracks were attacked.

In nearby Szczecin, barricades were built in the city square and there were clashes causing injuries to workers and riot police.

Despite street patrols of riot police and warnings to workers, there were further protests ten days later, on 13 May, marking the fifth month of martial law.

The underground leadership of Solidarity called for a fifteen minute work stoppage and protests against martial law at midday on the 13th. Once again, thousands of workers showed their support, and there were violent clashes between workers and police in various cities.

In Krakow police fired tear gas and water cannon to disperse a crowd of 10,000 who tried to march behind a Solidarity banner. There were 637 more arrests in connection with the demonstrations. Many workers were also charged with having supported the 15-minute protest by sounding their car horns, flashing their car lights and otherwise disrupting the traffic!

Most of the leadership of Solidarity are interned and fourteen of them, in the main prison in Warsaw, have gone on hunger strike in protest against their imprisonment and the conditions in prison.

Like the few leaders in hiding from the police, those in prison have called for talks between the government and Solidarity on the lines of the 'compromise'

drawn up by the Catholic Church.

But apart from the recognised leadership of Solidarity, new elements of leadership are springing up within the working class. It has been noticeable, for example, that there has been a big proportion of young workers on the demonstrations and the original call for protests on 1 May was issued by a clandestine committee comprising representatives of 60 different factories in the Warsaw area.

The government cannot tolerate any return to the free organisation and expression of workers' rights, as was the case before 13 December. They will only accept a "compromise" on their own terms.

But on the other hand, the military are hesitating at this stage to institute a bloody settling of accounts with the underground movement, because of the reaction at home and abroad.

General Jaruzelski knows that he cannot increase production by pointing a bayonet at the back of every worker. Even since the declaration of martial law, there has been a decline in the economy, with most indices falling except in mining. Iron production, for example is down 16 per cent, and there are 10 per cent fewer goods produced and reaching the market than before martial law.

The purchasing power of the average Polish family has declined by about a quarter as the increased costs of food and other basic necessities have begun to bite, and there will be no lessening of the bitterness felt by the mass of workers.

At this stage the bureaucracy is feeling its way forward, hoping to 'keep the lid on' and to revive the economy—but always prepared, if necessary, to introduce an even harsher military regime.

In the last week the government, through their official press mouthpieces, even tried to discredit Solidarity by linking it to the priest who tried to assassinate the Pope in Portugal last week.

The regime is worried about the way that the underground movement has tended to re-surface in the guise of church services. Despite the fact that the Polish Primate Cardinal Glemp condemned the protests very clearly and explicitly, workers are using

'special masses' and other church services as a means of protest.

Thus on the 13th day of every month special services are held and are attended by hundreds or as in May, thousands of workers who oppose the regime.

The protests this month are an indication of the fact that the Jaruzelski regime can only establish a tenuous and temporary 'stability'. The workers of Poland, as elsewhere in the world, will always find a way to come back and begin the struggle again.

'STRIKE'

This reconstruction of the strike at the Lenin shipyard in Gdansk purported to be an objective appraisal of the birth of Solidarity.

Although the overall impression was one of revolutionary activity by the working-class, the lack of explanation of the processes in Polish society meant that an air of foreboding dominated the film. It implied that heroic struggles of the workers were not going to change the system, although they might have been 'successful' if they had stopped with a few reforms.

A central theme was Walesa's role as 'arbiter' on the executive of the central strike committee.

One of the critical scenes was his about-face when the strike had achieved the reinstatement of himself and other victimised activists, the compromise 1,500 zlotys a month rise, plus the erection of a monument to the 1970 strikers killed by the army and

Shown on ITV
10.45 am, 17 May
-12.40 am, 18 May
Reviewed by Steve Cawley

police. It showed Walesa at first calling the strike off, then siding with the more radical minority as it appears a left opposition would otherwise coalesce.

The strengths of the different factions on the strike committee reflect the changing mood of the working class, and change from hour to hour as news comes in from the capital of the government's position, from Silesia of the miners' reaction, and from hundreds of workplaces on the Baltic coast.

The commentary explicitly states that any general

strike leaders must assume not only the leadership of the working class, but also the powers of the state. This, coupled with the illustration of the workers running society in the freest way possible, yet with enthusiastic co-operation from all sections of the population (except, of course, the bureaucracy) perhaps explains the late night/early morning timing of the film. Very few workers could afford to watch it if they had a job to go to on Tuesday morning. Even Tony Benn interviews are shown at earlier times.



Solidarity demonstration in Warsaw.

"A Massacre of workers"

Asbestos cover-up in South Africa

The South African Government, not content with outlawing political ideas which threaten their rule, have also been censoring the results of scientific research, as revealed in a recent "World in Action" programme, and in *New Scientist* (23 April).

A 30-year campaign has been waged to suppress information about the link between asbestos and cancer. In 1978, two scientists from the National Institute for Occupational Diseases were banned by the Medical Research Council from reporting their findings and have still not been able to publish their work.

The present regulations on asbestos exposure limits in European countries and

the USA are the result of campaigns by workers in response to research done in South Africa in 1960. But in South Africa no legal limit has been set, and the researchers were subjected to a campaign intended to discredit them and prevent their further work.

The Medical Research Council has claimed no scientific basis for the ban: it was a political decision in response to the asbestos industry, which has representatives on the MRC's asbestos research project.

Apart from establishing a link between asbestos and cancer, the 1960 report uncovered scandalous conditions of health and safety in the mining areas.

Another report said that children were used to pack the asbestos into sacks by the simple method of getting into the sacks and trampling down the fluffy fibres. These children were

dying of asbestos related diseases before the age of 12.

Since then dust levels have been dramatically reduced—now they are "only" 7 fibres/cc in Transvaal and 6 fibres/cc in Cape Province. This is thirty times the legal maximum in Britain. Sweden and several other countries have banned blue asbestos altogether.

If South African miners were to die of cancer at the same rate as American miners, 10,000 out of the 22,000 currently employed in the asbestos mines will suffer a painful and lingering death sometime in the next 30 years. In fact, the numbers will probably be greater than that. Death on this scale can only be described as a massacre of workers.

Since workers in USA and Europe have won better conditions, it has become

less profitable to process asbestos in those countries. The multinationals have accordingly begun to move production to countries where there are fewer restrictions. Two firms in Hamburg have dismantled entire factories and shipped them out to South Africa, where dust levels are not regulated and they can pay black workers as little as £15 a week.

Unemployment or death: that is the choice offered by capitalism to many black workers in South Africa. The scandalous conditions in the asbestos industry, underlines very sharply the need for workers in Germany, Britain and elsewhere to establish links of mutual struggle and support with their fellow workers in South Africa.

By Vivien Seal

FACING THE TORY LONSLAUGHT

At the recent conference of the Civil and Public Services Association *Militant* supporter, Kevin Roddy was elected union President.

We carry below an interview with Kevin by Brian Ingham in which Kevin explains the difficulties facing CPSA members and the programme and policy which the new NEC will be hoping to implement.

BI "Your election and the left landslide in the NEC elections were both greeted with thunderous applause by conference delegates who obviously felt the union will now begin to go forward and truly represent the hopes and aspirations of its members. What are the particular problems facing CPSA members?"

KR "Our members have been under a relentless series of attacks ever since the inception of the Thatcher government.

"Living standards have been cut by about 20% and—in the civil service alone—we have lost tens of thousands of jobs. These attacks on our members must be reversed.

"With the support of the new executive, and certainly with the support of the members who are sick to death of what's going on, I'll be hoping to reverse those trends."

BI "Are the Tories being particularly brutal to civil servants?"

KR "Yes. The Tories have decided to make an example of their own direct employees.

"A couple of months ago, Tory minister, Barney Hayhoe, announced that the Tories thought they could get away with giving no pay rise whatsoever to young civil servants because there were 10 applicants for every civil service job.

"That cynical attitude was greeted with unbridled fury by the ordinary members of our union. The Tories are attacking and chipping away at every little standard we have fought for over decades in the union.

"They unilaterally tore up our long-standing pay agreement in preparation for the current Megaw inquiry into civil service pay

which is heavily weighted against the unions and which, according to all informed commentators, will come out with proposals designed to undermine our trade union unity and drag down our living standards still further.

"We have agreed to hold a special pay conference so that our members can organise fully to defend themselves against any attacks in the Megaw Report."

Defending pay and jobs

BI "New technology also seems to be a major issue facing civil servants."

KR "That is absolutely true. A massive attack on civil service manpower is going to come with the attempted introduction of new technology, the so-called microchip revolution.

"We aren't Luddites. We are in favour of new technology. There are countless humdrum jobs in the civil service which we would want to be rid of, many tasks that our members find soul destroying and monotonous.

"We want to use new technology, but it should not be used as a jobs cutting exercise, which is what the Tories are about.

"The left in the union have advanced the case for an immediate cut in the working week and for all jobs that currently exist to be preserved.

"The new technology agreement the Tories are trying to foist upon the civil service trade unions would mean the loss of tens of thousands of jobs belonging to our members, other civil servants and working people at large, especially of the millions languishing on the dole under this government desperately looking for a job.

"We decided at conference to throw out the new technology agreement which had been signed above the heads of our members. We intend to reopen negotiations.

"Maybe the Tories would want to push the question to the lengths of a struggle. If so they will receive a response from the civil servants organised in CPSA. At conference CPSA members gave the leadership authority to fight against the agreement."

BI "What attitude do the Tories take to trade union representatives in the civil service?"

KR "The Tories have a completely contemptuous attitude to the civil service trade union movement.

"We need more facility time in order to adequately represent our members, yet they have presented a union

facilities agreement which seeks to take away many of the well established representational rights that we have enjoyed. That agreement was rejected at our conference last week.

"In negotiations in the civil service they have tried to sweep away all agreed negotiating procedures and simply announce their measures are going to be introduced. Often they have not even given the unions time to argue and consult members. The new leadership of CPSA are intent upon insisting on the agreed procedures being followed."

BI "Should the Tories provoke a struggle with your union and other civil servants, how confident would you be of the outcome?"

KR "I have every confidence in our members and in the civil service trade union movement in general. Our members demonstrated their capacity to struggle in 1981.

"The vital element missing in CPSA at that time was a leadership worthy of the membership. That has changed. CPSA now has a leadership that won't be intimidated by the Tories. If our union is obliged to fight, I have every confidence we will be successful.

MOD at risk

"There is not one group of our members free from attack. Our members in the Post and Telecommunications industry for instance face the threat to their jobs and livelihoods from the opening up of profitable areas to private enterprise.

"We shall try to give the necessary assistance and

leadership to all our members, in all groups and sections of the union."

BI "Are you particularly anxious about the problems facing CPSA members in the Ministry of Defence?"

KR "The incoming NEC is pledged to give special help to our MOD members who have very real worries for their jobs. They have seen a campaign of black propaganda against the left in our union, and as a result many will be uneasy at the thought of a left NEC.

"I am confident these feelings will begin to disappear as the left NEC stands shoulder to shoulder with MOD members in the fight for jobs and better wages.

"MOD jobs are currently at risk as a result of the government's nuclear programme, with the consequent closures of naval dockyards and overall financial stringency throughout the department.

"The MOD is regarded as being the worst management in the civil service. There are already struggles going on. At the Royal Ordnance factory at Birtley, Tyne and Wear, members have been on all-out strike for eight weeks fighting against a Stone Age management in order to maintain their conditioned hours.

"There is also a struggle in MOD at Llangennech. A good deal of the literature there is pointing out that if the Ministry of Defence jobs are run down then it's the duty of a government to provide alternative work for those workers of a socially useful type."

BI "Why do you think there was such a sweeping victory for the left?"

KR "The Broad Left offered a fighting lead which the members were prepared



Kevin Roddy speaks to Militant

to accept.

"Those who have been elected as part of the new Broad Left CPSA NEC are all people of substance and authority in our union; leading figures in branches, sections and groups with a long history of service to the union. The respect for the left NEC candidates was an important factor.

"In the past, the right wing have been helped by massive backing from the press. This time this propaganda seems to have been squeezed out as a result of the concentration of the media on the Falklands crisis.

"But the main reason for the heavy defeat of the right wing was simply that they had failed the membership, most notably in the 1981 civil service pay campaign. After the longest dispute in the history of CPSA the right wing put out the final insulting offer of the government with absolutely no recommendation. I think that weighed heavily with the members, and they voted accordingly."

BI "The conference voted for a ballot of CPSA members on the question of Labour Party affiliation. What priority do you give to this issue?"

KR "I think that this is now an urgent priority. We can't achieve anything by industrial action alone. Every single advance we make as a trade union on

the industrial front is either consolidated or undermined by political decisions.

"We need a workers' government in Britain that is going to meet the needs and aspirations of CPSA members and workers generally.

"We do not have interests that are fundamentally different to any other group of workers in Britain. We need to be linked together with other workers inside the party created by trade unions, the Labour Party, and we need to join the fight to reject the Tories and return a Labour government committed to socialist policies."

BI "Finally, the press have highlighted your support for the Militant, would you like to comment upon this?"

KR "Before I even came across the *Militant* I had a history of activity in the labour and trade union movement. I came to agree with the ideas of *Militant* because I found that it was only *Militant* which could adequately explain the tide of events in Britain and the twists and turns of events in society at large.

"*Militant* alone had a programme which offered a clear answer to the problems confronting working people. When I am accused of supporting the *Militant* I therefore plead guilty. I am proud to be associated with *Militant*."



Civil Service Picket, Chatham Dockyard during last year's strike

Photo: C Augusto (IFL)



IEWS? COMMENTS? EXPERIENCES?
CRITICISM? WRITE ABOUT THEM TO:

MILITANT, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

National Organisation of Labour Students

150 Walworth Road, London SE17 1JT/Telephone 01-703 0833

Roy Hattersley MP,
C/O House of Commons,
Westminster,
LONDON SW1.

1 December 1981

Dear Mr. Hattersley,

I thought that I would write personally to thank you for speaking at Bradford University Labour Club on the 20th of this month. As you may know, this club until recently was strongly under the influence of members of the Militant tendency, and I'm sure that your meeting will have helped to secure the future of the club.

yours fraternally,

J. Newell
John Dennis
Student Organiser

A personal thankyou from John Dennis (Labour Party Student Organiser) to Roy Hattersley MP (see reply).

What happened at Bradford University Labour Club?

Dear 'Militant'

Having just read the article by Clive Heemskirk entitled the "Education Crisis Needs Socialist Answers", I thought that I might clarify one or two points out of the whole host of mistakes, misrepresentations and misinformation which it contains.

Mr Heemskirk alludes to the "collusion" between John Dennis (Labour Party Student Organiser) and Roy Hattersley with the desired intent of "moving against 'Militant' supporters" at Bradford University. Apart from a naive and puerile belief that these two people are so eaten away with the omniscient fear of 'Militant'

capturing Bradford University that they have to resort to nefarious plots of subterfuge, Mr Heemskirk is also guilty of a cardinal crime for a Leninist. He has not examined the historical circumstances of the Bradford University Club.

As the "crisis of capitalism" deepens one would have expected the Labour Club to have thrived. This was not so. In 78/79 it boasted of 128 members; in 79/80 it fell to 80 and in 80/81 it slumped to 24 (twenty-four) members. Bradford has a higher intake of working class people than any other university in the country.

In the last year of 80/81 two of the signatories all but disappeared from the face of Bradford but did not relinquish their positions so as to facilitate a re-election. The Club ran up a debt with 'Socialist Youth' of £124

which remains unpaid to this day. The Club held only two meetings throughout the whole of the year, of which neither was the obligatory AGM.

Throughout this period 'Militant' supporters were in control of the Club. How did this state of affairs conform to their idea of a "broad based, mass campaigning union"?

Surprising as it may seem to some 'Militant' readers it was neither John Dennis nor Roy Hattersley who dethroned 'Militant' at this university but rather the rank and file membership who turned on the Tendency after suffering its incompetence and lack of commitment to the club for too long.

Yours fraternally
Reg Bull
Publicity Officer,
University of Bradford
Labour Club

Bradford University student and ex-student Militant supporters reply to Reg Bull's letter;

Reg Bull's five months as a Labour Party member obviously makes it difficult for him to judge the "historic circumstances" of Bradford University Labour Club.

'Militant' supporters built up the Labour Club from nothing into a large campaigning organisation during the course of the 1970s. It participated in all the campaigns in the student field, occupations, rent strikes and so on. It produced regular bulletins on the issues of the day. In 1977 to '78 the Secretaries for External Affairs and the Secretary for Internal Affairs were Labour Club members. In 1979 a Labour Club member stood for University President. In these campaigns the Labour Club stood on its independent policies rather than following the policy of "broad" alliances as is the case with the present NOLS leadership. In 1978 and 1979 the Labour Club stood full slates for delegates to the NOLS conference. Where is the "incompetence and lack of commitment to the Club" in this?

The Labour Club at the same time firmly rejected the idea that it should be a completely student-orientated election machine. Labour Club members organised coaches to help the Grunwick strikers; organised regular night-time soup runs during the 1977 firemen's dispute; assisted striking bakery workers and invited shop stewards from the workers in dispute at Western Ship-repairers.

Labour Club members went as observers to Bradford Trades Council. The Halls of Residence were regularly canvassed to get students to vote Labour and join the Labour Party. During the local election campaigns, the Students' Union mini-bus was used to ferry voters to the polling station and Labour Club members were out on a consistent basis as were student 'Militant' supporters in this year's election. Can the present Labour Club leadership match this record? On this year's polling day Reg Bull himself was on the local radio station as the "neutral" local expert on the election results!

'Militant' supporters who are students and ex-students continue to play an important role in the Bradford labour movement. Who has shown a "lack of commitment" with regard to Labour?

But it would be wrong to deny that, due to a number of leading Club members leaving college, the Labour Club experienced difficulties in the last year. As Reg Bull is aware, one fifth of the Labour Clubs affiliated to NOLS last year (the bulk of whom supported the NOLS leaders) had such difficulties that they were unable to re-affiliate to NOLS this year.

But the bureaucratic attitude of the NOLS leaders has compounded the problems clubs face. 'Militant' supporters at the September NOLS National Committee proposed that Bradford University Labour Club be asked to hold an AGM at the beginning of the new term. But this positive approach was rejected and

the Club was disaffiliated. Indeed, the main point on the original article was that the NOLS leaders, like the right wing in the Labour Party, are unable to politically answer Marxist ideas and instead rely on organisational methods.

And the events around Bradford University Labour Club show that the NOLS leaders are prepared to co-operate with the right wing in this task! What other inference can be drawn from the letter John Dennis wrote to Roy Hattersley? "Hattersley Blasts Wall" screamed the local headlines when the MP declared that Pat Wall should not be a parliamentary candidate and that 'Militant' should be expelled from the Labour Party. The reconstructed Labour Club provided the platform for this leading right-wing MP to come to Bradford. Why was Hattersley invited? Why hasn't Reg Bull disassociated himself from Hattersley's outburst? These questions remain unanswered.

With the collapse of the 'Left Alliance' in NUS many independent "progressive" Student Union sabbaticals will move into NOLS. Reg Bull himself last year stood as an "Independent Socialist" in Bradford University elections. He joined the Labour Club this academic year. Five months after joining the Labour Party he goes onto the NOLS NC.

Genuine students as well will join Labour Clubs looking for an answer to the problems students face. They will look to the ideas of the 'Militant' and provide the motor force for a fighting socialist leadership of NOLS and NUS.

How new technology can affect the workers

Dear Comrades

Addressing the West Midlands Engineering Employment Federation, Employment Secretary Tebbit said that new technology would improve employment prospects. Well, it would if it was used to the benefit of working people to reduce the hours worked and do away with boring jobs.

He said that "Where robots are getting on with the boring, dirty and dangerous jobs, they offer people the choice of better paid and more fulfilling jobs." ['Guardian', 15 May 1982]. He almost sounds sensible!

It is all a question of to whose benefit is the micro revolution. Employers see it as a chance to cut labour costs and increase productivity—whole typing pools being replaced by a small number of workers operating word processors, for example.

The impact on the employment of women in office work will be particularly hard. Over 70% of women are employed in the

service industries compared to 40% of men. The ICL Siemens laser printer types 2,000 lines per minute! In Bradford the council reduced the staff in one section from 44 to 22. The Provident Financial Group reduced their full-time typing staff from 27 to 17 and their part-time staff from 13 to 3.

Productivity is rising and job prospects are being reduced. On top of this there are the health risks. Headaches, focusing problems, nausea and psychological reactions can be the result of working in front of a Visual Display Unit. Then there are attempts to alter hours, to do away with flexi-time and introduce shift systems in offices.

Only on the basis of a planned nationalised economy with workers' control and management will new technology be used to benefit working men and women by reducing hours and improving work conditions. Tebbit and his gangsters will use it to cut jobs and boost profits.

Yours fraternally
Andy Allenby
Southern Region
LPYS Committee

Workers' attitudes to the Falklands war

Dear Comrades

After finishing a Saturday morning session of leafletting for the recent Regional Council elections, I and two LPYS members adjourned to the pub for some well earned refreshment.

Sitting down across from a number of older working class women, we were immediately identified as Labour Party members by our stickers, and accosted (verbally) on a number of points.

One woman in particular was outspoken about the role of Michael Foot and even Tony Benn in regard to the Falklands. The discussion proceeded something like as follows:

Woman: "You in the Labour Party—I'm finished with them—I always voted Labour. But that Foot, he's a bloody coward—and Benn as well—talk about turning the fleet back, we can't back down to bloody dictators."

"Surely you don't want a war with thousands of young working class people on both sides killed—and surely you can't support why Thatcher is wanting a war?" I asked.

Woman: "I hate that Thatcher and what she's doing to working people—I'm a nurse, and I'll go out on strike against her—but what can you do but support her? We don't want dictators walking all over us. I lived through the last war—we fought Hitler and his like then!"

Going on, she said, "You, the young ones, you should get rid of Foot and get somebody who thinks like us workers."

After a thorough discussion, and a lot of persuading and explanation, we not only changed her mind to vote Labour but she said she would think about joining the party, if young people like me were going to change it.

As far as I was concerned, the discussion proved a number of points. Mainly that a lot of Thatcher's support is not willing but reluctantly given because of the lack of Labour's leaders giving a socialist lead to workers. It especially showed that workers are not pacifists—they don't like war as we always pay the price, but they equally don't like dictators who trample over people's rights, and as in the case of 1939, would fight and die rather than let fascism smash the gains won by their organisations.

Yours fraternally
John McLelland
Govan CLP

Private health service

Dear Comrades

Anyone who saw 'County Hospital' on BBC 2 [8 May] could not help but realise how sick capitalism has become in the so-called free, democratic USA.

The programme was about the only free hospital in Chicago, and obviously with unemployment so high it was overcrowded and its staff very overworked. The cuts Reagan is demanding threatens the future of this hospital.

To say this hospital is vital would be an understatement. All other hospitals [private] refused treatment even for emergencies, unless a green card could be produced proving your income was too low to survive on, or you had an insurance policy. As most of these people were living in slum areas, with high unemployment their health was already impaired and many of the emergencies were due to violence arising from these bad social conditions.

The callous way in which these people were treated by this so-called freedom-loving Christian society could not help but sicken anyone with feelings. The anger and frustration of these people was apparent, only a direction for it was lacking.

Knowing how Thatcher and Reagan agree on just about everything, I felt how urgent it is to stop her before she destroys our own NHS. We don't need a society where only the rich can afford good health and the poor suffer sickness till death. Or perhaps this is the aim of the capitalist masters. If their attacks on our trade unions fail they could perhaps weaken us by depriving us of treatment after working us near to death by some of their terrible conditions in many places of employment.

Yours fraternally
Pat Reet
TGWU

Thatcher's good points!

Dear Militant

As a new reader I cannot understand why you are so down on Mrs Thatcher. Her work as an educationalist is unsurpassed; she has given us the clearest demonstration ever that capitalism does not work—even for capitalists! And she has set another record: she has master-minded the most tremendous flood of moral hypocrisy ever released—even in this England of ours (or should I say 'theirs')!

Yours fraternally
Rex Gibson
Broadway, Worcs.

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target 11 July
Eastern	425		2115
East Midlands	465		1765
Hants & Dorset	425		1250
Humberside	217		1075
London East	675		1960
London West	180		1060
London South	346		1415
Manchester & Lancs	299		2020
Merseyside	446		2290
Northern	645		2760
Scotland East	211		1345
Scotland West	435		2375
Southern	835		1760
South West	324		885
Wales East	150		945
Wales West	439		1355
West Midlands	658		2120
Yorkshire	404		2505
Others	2440		4000
Total received	10019		35000

£25,000 Needed in six weeks

We're now almost half-way through the quarter target period to 10th July, but we're not half-way through with the cash raised! This means we'll be asking all our readers to make a double effort in the six weeks ahead!

The £25,000 we still need to raise will be very valuable in paying for extra equipment we need to cover developments at the pace they move nowadays. Although the press has tended to exclude everything from the news that isn't connected with the Falklands, there's disputes on in the Health

Service, with 11 unions campaigning together for the first time, on the railways over the 8-hour day and threatened closure of workshops, in local authorities over privatisation, and many others.

And it's not all just in Britain. How many of our readers know that there've been strikes by sugar workers in at least 4 Caribbean countries in the last 3 weeks?

One of these has already won major gains for the workers. But we would like the resources to be able to cover such events in detail, not least because many of our readers in Britain have friends and relatives directly involved.

Still our support is increasing in the trade unions to judge from over £230 col-

THIS WEEK: £1,421

lected at the Militant meeting in Bournemouth attended by delegates and visitors to the SOGAT and IPCS Conferences, over £80 from the Militant meeting in Bridlington where the Fire Brigades Union are meeting, and over £100 in IOUs repaid from the CPSA Conference.

By Steve
Cawley

And a Blackpool reader, R Barnes, has been one of the first to donate £20 to celebrate Kevin Roddy's election as President of CPSA, while Newton Abbot Trades Council held a meeting on "What Militant Stands For"—at a profit to our fighting fund!

What reading Militant each week means to one of our readers is quite clear from the fact that the comrade sent us a donation of £250! With £250 you could probably take a holiday abroad away from the evils of capitalism for a couple of weeks, and have a really good time: the only snag is, the system will still be here when you come back! We need your cash to help do away with capitalism permanently!

Thanks also to H Lewis from Merseyside who writes: "I am a member of the LPYS and the POEU and a regular reader of your excellent paper. Please find enclosed a cheque for £10 to

help you build the fight for socialism." What about other Merseyside supporters who want to see their line on our chart growing faster? You know what to do about it!

Although the Manchester & Lancs line is the furthest behind at present, £8.58 from the first ever Marxist Discussion Group in Bury, and £20 from supporters in West Manchester are examples for the other readers in that area. Thanks also to delegates at the NUR Shopman's Conference for over £18 in donations and 'extras', and smaller amounts from extras at the Tobacco Workers Conference, and the BIFU Broad Left meeting held recently.

In Labour Parties from Tunbridge Wells to Northern Region Conference (£40), members have donated to collections for us (or bought badges etc), whilst LPYS branches supporting us include Hackney Central, Cardiff N, Toxteth, Wallsend, Blackley, Littlehampton, Sevenoaks, Gateshead E, and Stockton, and Labour students at Dartington College.

We can't thank more than a few individual contributors for space reasons, but this week tenners from M Mason (Hull ASTMS), H Sutherland (Fallin LPYS), £4s from H Brown (Uckfield) and A Webb (Royston) together with smaller sums from T Hesp (Amsterdam), P St Clair (S Shields) and J Hull (Colchester) were very welcome. Are you with the Militant?

MARXIST WEEKEND SCHOOL. Saturday 26 June-Sunday 27 June. This year's school will be held at Queen Mary's College, Mile End, London E1. Courses will include introduction to Marxism, Latin America, History of British labour movement, Women and the struggle for socialism, Permanent Revolution and colonial liberation. Booking forms available from your local 'Militant' seller.

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

ads

MILITANT MEETINGS AND SOCIALS

BRISTOL NHS Public Meeting 'Unity for 12%'. Thursday 3 June, 7.30 pm, at Crown Tavern, Lamfords Gate. Speakers: Christine Edge (COHSE), Simon Newell (NUPE), Richard Garrad (NALGO)

LEYLAND: "What Militant Stands For". At 8pm, Thursday 27 May at Civic Hall, Towngate, Leyland.

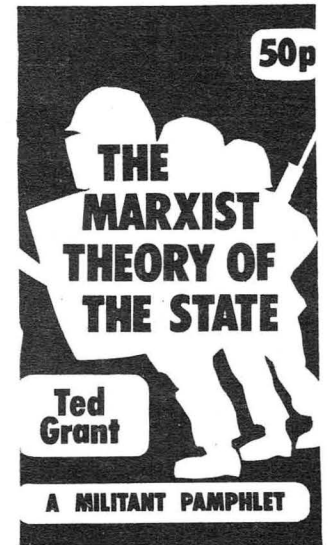
BRITTON. Wednesday 2nd June 7.30pm. Youth fight back against racialism and unemployment. Speakers: Sam Brown (LPYS London Regional Committee), Rod Fitch (PPC Brighton Kemp Town). At Brixton Town Hall.

AFTER THE WOMEN'S FESTIVAL come to a 'Militant' social and disco. Tickets £1.50 including buffet. From Doreen Roberts, ring 543 3658, or Marie Walsh, ring 648 3957.

MACCLESFIELD: 'Falklands War—What Policy for Labour?' Hear: Tony Saunois (Labour Party NEC 1978-81) 7.30 pm, 30 May, at Nags Head, Waters Green (opp Station)

CLASSIFIED

OXFORD Militant Supporters tote results.
Week 584: No 26, P Woodward. Week 585: No 88, F Robinson. Week 586: No 42, unsold. Week 587: No 21, unsold. Week 588: No 27, unsold. Week 589: No 20, unsold. Week 590: No 1, J Coles. Week 590: No 58, A Glyn. Week 592: No 78, J Hicks. Week 593: No 15, unsold. Week 594: No 14, unsold. Week 595: No 73, unsold. Week 596: No 83, unsold. Week 597: No 1, J Coles. Week 598: No 77, P Coleman.



Available from
World Books
1 Mentmore Terrace
London E8 3PN
(Add 15p for p&p)



T-SHIRTS AND SWEATSHIRTS. Sizes and colours for small—32-34; medium—34-36; large—38-40; extra large—42-44. Red motif on white, yellow, sky blue, bottle green, navy, black (+ sweatshirt grey and mid-blue). Cost: T-shirts £3.25, sweatshirts £6.75 (both prices include postage and packing). Plain T-shirts and sweatshirts also available, deduct 25p from price. Send cheques and postal orders to R Harris, 35 Westminster Court, Blackburn, Lancashire BB1 1UR. All proceeds to Fighting Fund.

7th South Wales Summer Camp

August Bank Holiday, Friday 27 August-Monday 30 August. For the seventh time we are organising our highly successful camp in the beautiful surroundings of Horton on the Gower Coast (10 minutes' walk from Port Eynon and Horton beaches).

It will provide not only an excellent introduction to the ideas of Marxism, but also a superb holiday for the family.

This year will be the best ever with increased facilities but still at a very low cost of £10.00. Meals and snacks will be provided at the camp but campers will have to bring their own tents etc.

Send money to South Wales Summer Camp, 181 Hanover Street, Swansea. Cheques payable to 'Swansea Summer Camp'.

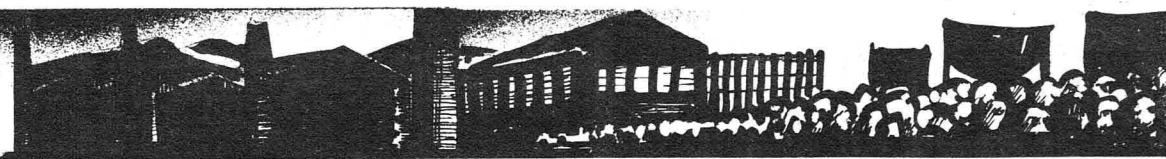
3rd KENT WEEKEND SCHOOL—CANCELLATION
Because of this coinciding with the CND demo and Women's Festival, it has reluctantly been decided to cancel this event.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL FESTIVAL

LONDON, SATURDAY 5 JUNE

Demonstration to Festival leaves County Hall, 10.30 am
Festival (organised by Labour Party) at Battersea Park

Industrial Reports



BREL — STOP B.R. DEVASTATION

The proposed closure of Shildon and Horwich with redundancies at Swindon must be taken as a warning of further redundancies at all rail workshops.

Statements from British Rail that other workshops are "safe" from redundancies must be taken with a very large pinch of salt.

For some workers here at Eastleigh works, the news that this round of redundancies has hit elsewhere has been taken with false relief. There must be a campaign both locally and nationally to clearly warn of BRB plans and the danger of further redundancies.

Last year redundancies at Ashford works in Kent were seen as a "one off" by many but now as 'Militant' (21

May) pointed out, BREL is talking of a 57% reduction in workload.

No doubt the Tories and their "press-pals" will try to blame the latest round of redundancies on the ASLEF action over flexi-rostering but 12,000 jobs disappeared from the railway last year before the dispute.

Here at Eastleigh we must be on our guard. Failure to back Swindon, Harwich and Shildon workers in their fight to keep jobs will leave us very vulnerable in future.

Many of the Tories rich friends who deal in property are casting longing eyes on the acres of land owned by BR and BREL throughout the country. We must stand united in a fight against all redundancies and all closures.

By Pete Atkins
(Eastleigh AUEW No. 2 Branch and BREL worker)

SHILDON

Shildon, in County Durham has a long history as one of the birthplaces of the railways. The first public passenger train on 28 September, 1825 started near Shildon on the Stockton-Darlington railway.

The first factory especially to build locomotives was founded in Shildon in 1827. Now, 155 years later, the Tories want to close down the Shildon workshops, which today makes railwagons, as part of their wholesale destruction of British industry.

But the workers and people of the town are

determined not to let Shildon and the railways die. A mass demonstration backed by the Northern Region of the Labour Party is planned on Shildon for Saturday 29 May.

Support is flooding into the campaign. A successful meeting was organised in Newcastle, by the Shildon shop stewards committee and the Labour Party Young Socialists.

A further joint meeting is planned for 7.30pm, Wednesday June 2nd in the Civil Hall, with a shop steward speaking, and Ed Waugh, Chairman of the Regional Labour Party Young Socialists.

Already the National Union of Railwaymen has



Photo: Militant

Workers from Swindon protest against redundancy threats. BREL workers must stand united against management and government proposals.

stated that unless the British Rail Board backs down there will be national action in support of jobs. A united campaign, with mass support and drawing in the Triple Alliance unions of

miners and steelworkers will lead to victory, and a nail in the Tories coffin.

By Bill Hopwood

EDP Sheffield

23 ASTMS members at EDP Sheffield (Electronic Data Processing), are on indefinite strike for union recognition and the reinstatement of a sacked colleague.

The dispute started after Jenny Wright the local ASTMS Branch Secretary was told she was being made 'redundant' one week after she had been given a planned work schedule for the next six months. She was given ten minutes to leave the premises.

Management discovered that Jenny had recruiting workers into ASTMS and thought they could nip further union organisation in the bud and frighten off existing union members.

The vast majority of union members at EDP are in their late teens or early 20s; have never been in a union before they joined ASTMS, mostly less than a month ago. Yet their response was swift and decisive.

At a union meeting immediately after the sacking an all-out strike for union recognition and the reinstatement of Jenny Wright received unanimous backing. The strike had immediate effect, with nearly all the girls in the data preparation (punching) department out, all dispatch department and computer operators plus several programmers.

The managing director, on a company trip in America, flew back like a scalded cat and a meeting arranged with management

for 10.30pm on Thursday night.

The unions were repeatedly denied entrance to the meeting which was merely a management exercise on how to smash the strike.

On Friday morning, several taxis drove through the picket line with scab labour from the SOS employment agency in Sheffield, who were to do the work of the punch girls. This was followed by dismissal notices to all strikers who refused to work on Monday morning.

This was obviously an attempt to create panic and confusion among those on strike. The result was the opposite.

Only two members were frightened back to work and a union meeting last Sunday unanimously declared their increased determination to win the strike. The firm nevertheless is operating, on a much restricted basis, with non-union members and scab labour.

These workers vitally need your backing. A delegation to ASTMS Conference gained many pledges of support from other ASTMS branches, and backing is now beginning to be organised. Send all donations and messages of support to EDP Strike Fund, ASTMS, 61 Wostenholme Rd, Sheffield 7.

By an ASTMS member

FBU Conference

FBU Conference gave notice to the employers, that if they continue to attack and undermine trade union rights they will have a fight on their hands.

Delegates agreed to industrial action from 31 May in defence of the FBU on the national negotiating body the National Joint Council where, rather than recognise the FBU as the main representatives, the employers are using the National Association of Fire Officers (NAFO) as a scab outfit; disbanding the NJC and, in effect, threatening a lock-out.

A programme of one day strikes as a first step against victimisations was agreed. The main resolution on public spending cuts called for a national Conference to co-ordinate activity to fight the cuts and defeat the Tories involving Labour councils, Labour Parties, MPs, TUC affiliated trade unions, trades councils, and local authority shop stewards. This resolution was passed almost unanimously, and there was complete unanimity on Tebbit's bill, where a resolution called for a TUC mass campaign, non-recognition of the legislation and breaking of the law if necessary. It also stressed

the need for a TUC-led national and local campaign "to include the TUC calling for a 24 hour general strike both as a warning to the Tory Government and also as a preparation for a more determined struggle if necessary."

As Ernie Magnall, Cheshire, said, referring to the groundswell against Heath's Industrial Relations Act in 1971, "the only way out is through class struggle, now, the TUC must mobilise for a 24 hour general strike."

At mass meetings held in Glasgow on 25 May, Strathclyde firemen voted unanimously to accept their Executive Committee recommendation to take industrial action over the dissolution of the NJC.

The message to Thatcher's government from Strathclyde and indeed from firemen throughout Britain is quite clear. Workers will not tolerate attacks on their trade union rights and that they are prepared to fight to protect them.

By Jonny Mackintosh
FBU personal capacity

Famous Names

Workers at the Famous Names sweet factory, Bristol, have been on strike for decent wages for over five weeks now.

Not content with trying to break the strike with a phoney ballot, which many workers burnt on the picket line, management asked for ACAS negotiations to discuss a 'new offer.' This offer meant, that instead of offering 5% now and 8% in December, they were digging deep into their pockets to offer 5% now, 3% in

August and 5% in December!

With a tiny bit of mathematical juggling which would have made a difference of only pennies to workers on the bottom rate of £61.85 gross, they hoped to break the fight of the 350 workers for £10 cross the board.

Some hope! As factory convenor Barbara Farthing put it, "If stewards had dared to recommend acceptance we would have been lynched." Other workers

backed her up "We have lost 5 weeks' pay why go back for that?"

"They already walk all over us, supervisors don't ask they just whistle or call 'Oi' to you. Once a group of us were a couple of minutes late back from tea break and they stopped us a quarter of an hour's money."

Management are now reconsidering their attitude in light of the defiance of the workforce and may come up with a markedly improved offer in the next few days. There will be a further mass meeting as soon as possible.

Donations have flooded in from Labour Parties,

Young Socialists and trade union branches and when Bro. Joe Reddick of the strike committee spoke to Bristol Trades Council £50 was raised.

Donations/messages of support to Tom Fear, T&GWU 3/245, Transport House, Victoria Street, Bristol.

P.S. At the Southport plant, a mass meeting overwhelmingly voted to stay out. Southport LPYS have organised a public meeting in the town to support the strikers.

By Paul Moorhouse
(Bristol W LPYS)

BRITISH TELECOMMS: Reject pay cuts!

The National Executive of the Post Office Engineering Union (POEU) is to recommend the British Telecomms (BT) pay offer to union conference in June.

The offer, 6¼% from 1 July 1982 plus a further 1¼% from 1 January, 1983, represents a cut in living standards.

As is traditional with the right wing Executive, this is

bumped up with benefits from last year's pay deal, still outstanding, i.e. a 1% bonus and 1% pay increase. From year to year these divided pay increases are utilised to up each year's overall figures. But this cannot hide the cut.

Once again, no rewards have been secured for the now rapid introduction of modern technology. After 14 years or more, an increase in annual leave has

been negotiated with the pay deal.

But those most affected by new technology, the technical officer, senior technicians, and T1 grades there is to be no increase at all. This is creating fury.

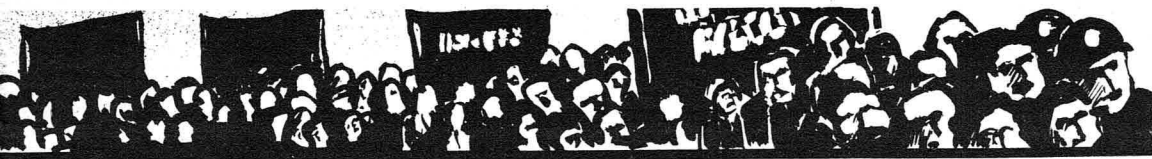
On top of this the union has actually negotiated a 5¼% reduction in pay for a whole series of grades for new recruits after 1 July.

The most disgraceful part is that this is only revealed

in a letter to branches. The majority of members have only been informed of the increases, in a supplement extolling the virtues of the claim. All reference to the pay cut is omitted.

Hence by the scandalous actions of Head Office, members may be unaware that they are also voting for other people's pay reductions.

By a Militant reporter



Industrial Reports

NHS dispute - A FIGHTING MOOD

The presence of nurses on the picket line at Bethnal Green Hospital made all the difference.

Not just because it was a significant step forward on their part, but because of their vitality, and freshness of approach.

While 'practiced' trade unionists hesitated over what to say, Nurses picked up the loud-hailer and exhorted passing motorists to toot their horns in support, because, they, like all health workers, were doing a vital job on starvation wages. All health workers deserved more than 4%—'Give Maggie a fourpenny one!'

And of course their presence gave heart to the ancillary workers. Not one of them broke the strike at Bethnal Green. The long gap between the vote for action on 14 April and the actual strike gave time for a whispering campaign that one section or another were not now supporting the strike.

From one quarter there were suggestions that it was wrong to 'embarrass the government' at the time of the Falkland crisis! Unrealistic requests for emergency cover at higher than normal staffing levels didn't help.

But a list showing what NUPE considered to be correct levels was published, and on the day, support was solid.

There was immense public support for the picket line. We started before 7.00 in the morning and ran out of leaflets two hours later!

The final word must remain with the nurses who had been jumping up and down all day with unflagging energy. One of them said to a colleague who had been working—"If it was up to me and I shared out the pay award, today's the first and last time you would hear about it!"

By Myrna Shaw
Assistant District
Branch Secretary,
Tower Hamlet Health
District NUPE

St Mary's Paddington

At the hospital I work at, St. Mary's Paddington, there was united action, with great support on the picket lines from nurses, many of whom had never taken part in industrial action before.

Porters, domestics, administrative and laboratory staff all stood together. Passing traffic tooted and shouted their support, passers-by all stopped and even patients stood on the picket to give encouragement.

No matter how many insults the Tory press hurl at

SUNDERLAND

After a highly successful rally in Sunderland 'Militant' spoke to Bob Shankland, secretary of NUPE Health Service Branch.

"The militant mood is undoubtedly going to escalate particularly as some nurses have been threatened with disciplinary action. I was particularly pleased today to see three student nurses from the school of nursing who were actually in the classroom and came out in support of this rally.

"This means that will go on their record but they said to hell with it we are still going out. The next stage is to

organise and get the message across that we are all involved in this.

"There is a danger for example that nurses have been involved in action and really the ancillary staff haven't been aware of it because it has just been a case of turning patients away. As a result of that action nurses have now been warned that they may suffer cuts in pay and face disciplinary action.

"Ancillary staff are not aware this is taking place. We must strengthen the union committees which are now starting to function better, as a result we should be getting more and more people involved."

NORFOLK & NORWICH

Robin Dyball, Convenor, Norfolk and Norwich Hospital Branch NUPE and National Committee member spoke to John Sillett.

"The 4% offer is an insult and has united all the health service unions. Many groups of public sector workers have smashed the 4% guide-line and now it's the turn for the health workers.

"Right from the start the unions put their case to the public with leaflets, with a mass meeting and with a petition to Thatcher. The local press and radio have been used to put the health workers' case too.

"This has made the

us, a few hours on the picket line shows that public sympathy and support is overwhelming for health service workers. With support from other unions, for example, the 2,000 miners in South Yorkshire who struck in support of the health workers, we can stand united with tremendous strength to win our claim.

By Ruth Herdman
NUPE, St Mary's
Hospital,
personal capacity

Oxford Hospitals

Management at John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford threatened to call in the Army, when shop stewards told them what arrangements had been made for the 19 May one day strike.

public very sympathetic. 'You deserve your 12%,' 'Thumbs down to Thatcher' and 'Get her out of No. 10' were typical comments made to pickets on 19 May.

"At the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital there was a 75% response to the strike call from those workers involved with a 100% response in the Laundries. The action will cause administrative problems for management but patients will not suffer."

"During the pay campaign more nurses have been joining NUPE and a nursing section has been set up with two shop stewards."

Their attitude was that since they ran the hospital the rest of the time, they should be dictating what happened during the strike! But their bluff and bluster did them no good.

Emergency cover was provided as determined by the workers themselves, and on the day pickets gave special help when necessary, after consideration by stewards.

Dozens of lorries with non-essential supplies turned back and bus drivers stopped to allow us to talk and give leaflets to passengers. We were given several large donations of money.

It is vital now that the mood and the sense of strength be maintained, and that the campaign move on to more prolonged action that will win us our 12% rise.

By Steve McDonnell
NUPE shop steward
personal capacity

WANDSWORTH—All out strike

Wandsworth manual workers are now on all-out strike after a mass meeting on 24 May. This dispute is now over more than just privatisation of the dust.

The council threatened to sack all strikers including most of the leading manual workers' shop stewards on Wandsworth council in an attempt to smash the whole trade union organisation in Wandsworth.

There has been much talk in the media about vandals and intimidation in this dispute, but the real vandals are clearly Chope and his cronies backed up by the Tory government. They want to vandalise jobs and services.

The real face of intimidation was seen on 21 May when hundreds of police, including the Special Patrol Group, escorted scab drivers taking council refuse vehicles out of Frogmore depot crashing into parked cars, and even a police car, as they drove out, only to be waved through by the police!

The dustmen are still solid. At last week's dustmen's mass meeting only 7 out of 200 voted to go back, and even those who stood to gain most from redundancy pay voted to continue. Support has also come in from emergency resolutions from NUPE and GMWU conferences.

Tory plans were made clear last week when the strike committee met with the deputy leader. He said they had put out hundreds of other tenders for other sections, like the caretakers, parks and gardens, swimming pools, public halls, and white collar sections like the architects after they had privatised the dust.

The Tories, he said, would put out tenders and council employees were invited to put in their own tenders to compete blind

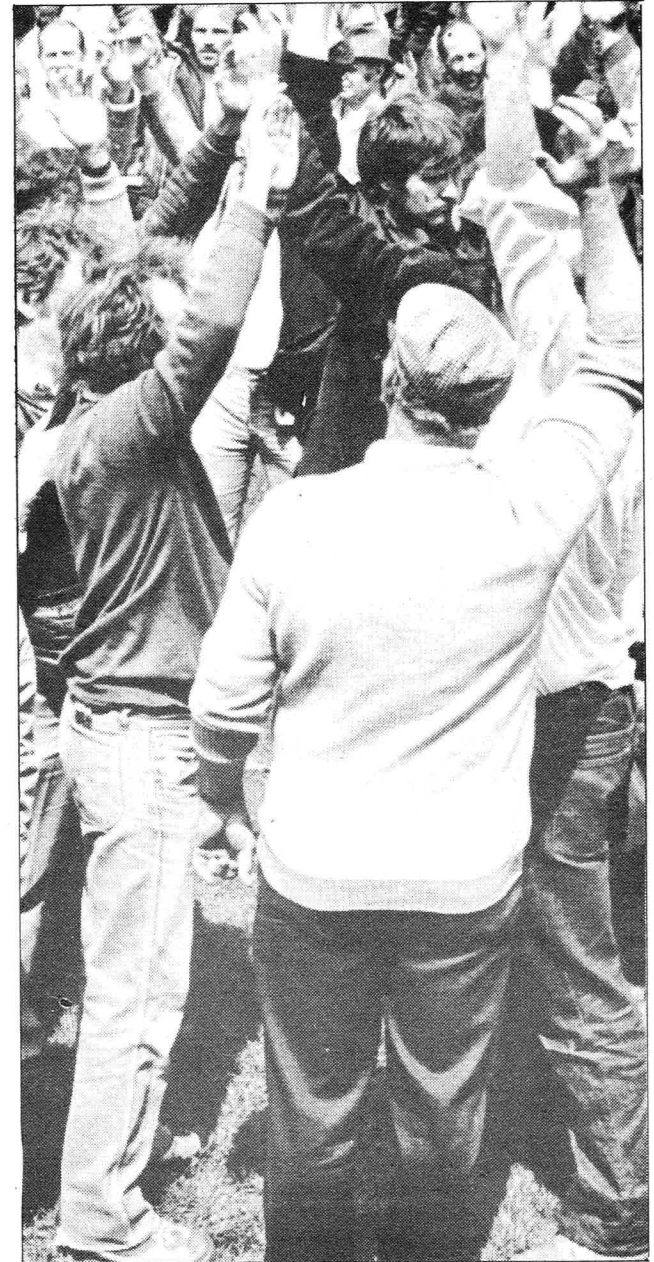


Photo: Militant

with the private firms. The contract would go to the lowest bidder, meaning workers had to compete for their jobs, blind with outside contractors.

Wandsworth council's experiment is clearly being looked on with interest by the government as a model

to encourage other councils to follow if they succeed in Wandsworth. But victory for the workers here will be an inspiration for council workers all over the country and a blow to the reactionary Wandsworth Tories—and Thatcher and Heseltine!

NUPE Report by Chris Edwards conference

The national conference of the National Union of Public Employees (NUPE) has clearly shown the determination needed to defeat Thatcher's attacks.

Delegates unanimously reflected the burning anger of NHS workers in the passing of an emergency resolution from Middlewood Hospital Branch in Sheffield calling for "an all out indefinite stoppage commencing June 4th involving all health service unions with accident and emergency cover only until the government agrees to pay the 12% demanded in full."

Six Yorkshire collieries and several steel works saw supporting strikes on May 19th and many delegates rightly saw this as an important weapon in building support for the claim.

The determination of delegates was demonstrated on the first day with the unanimous vote of support for Wandsworth dustmen's strike against privatisation

of vital services.

School meals, meals on wheels and hospital catering could clearly be lost to the public service if the Wandsworth fight is not won. Delegates received with standing ovation and 100% support speeches from representatives of school meals workers in Kent and also Devon currently taking strike action against management reneging on national agreements and against 20% wage cuts.

The discussion on next years pay claim gave the Executive a clear order to campaign before September for the next pay round based on a call for a national minimum wage of 2/3 of average earnings for a 35 hour week.

The pent up frustrations of members taking home as little as £31 per week for 40 hours was evident throughout the debate and the union has a clear opportunity to end low pay if the campaign and the issues are taken to every workplace.

GMWU Conference

By Clare Doyle

The main battles at GMWU Congress so far (Tuesday) have been to translate union policy into effective action. Particularly on the vital issue of privatisation.

The Executive had produced a policy statement and G&MWU officials have made public pronouncements but 500 men and women in Wandsworth threatened with the sack this week, wanted real commitment to spread the action and raise financial support.

Although an emergency resolution on this issue was initially rejected by Standing Orders Committee, Congress backed Dennis English, Secretary of Wandsworth Joint Strike Committee when he challenged this ruling.

On Tuesday morning, a busload of Wandsworth strikers arrived to emphasise the point with placards, buckets and leaflets and got a standing ovation from Congress. The emergency resolution for full support was passed unanimously.

Militant

THE MARXIST PAPER FOR LABOUR AND YOUTH
 Editor: Peter Taaffe. Published by Militant,
 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN. Telephone: 01-986 3828
 Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office
 Printed by Cambridge Heath Press Ltd [TU] ISSN 0144-9257

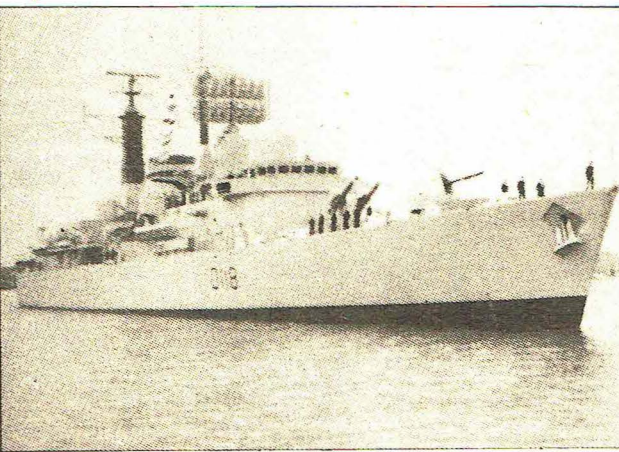
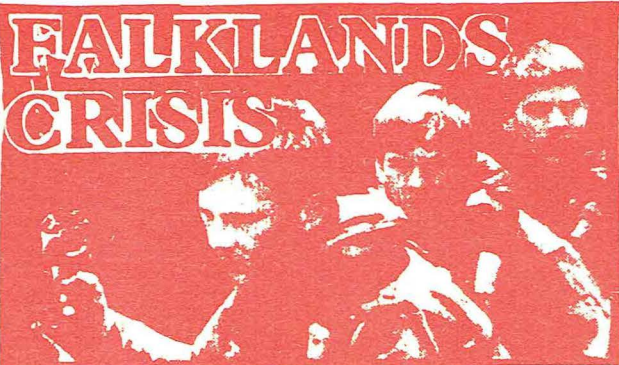
PROFITS FROM "LITTLE" WAR

Continued from page one

equipment ranging from shells to tanks. These factories, employing 20,000 workers, have made £150m profit since 1974 and where there is profit, the Tories believe it should always go to their friends in Big Business.

The unions representing the workforce have expressed their outright opposition

to this hiving off, but the labour movement must go further. The Labour Party should give a commitment that the next Labour government will take all the arms industries into public ownership. Arms production if it is necessary at all should be under the control of the labour movement. It should no longer be the road to a quick buck for the spivs of the Stock Exchange.



Stock exchange pundits refer to this "little" war, but while they speculate as to their arms profits, the war is anything but "little" for the wives and families of the crew of HMS Coventry (above) sunk last week.

SUBSCRIBE



BRITAIN & IRELAND
 13 issues... £4.00
 26 issues... £8.00
 52 issues...£16.00

EUROPE
 (by air)
 26 issues... £9.00
 52 issues...£18.00

REST OF WORLD
 (by air)
 26 issues...£14.00
 52 issues...£28.00

DONATE...

I would like to donate £ p each week/month to the fighting fund

Name

Address

SELL ...

I would like to sell ...papers per week (minimum 5) on a sale or return basis

Make cheques payable to MILITANT and return to the Circulation Department, MILITANT, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.



Photo: D Doran

NUPE and GMWU conference last week reaffirmed support for these school meals workers in Kent who are still on strike against the Tory council's renege on their wages agreement. The staff face huge cuts in jobs and wages if the Tories succeed.

Continued from page one

hour strikes planned for the 4th and 8th of June.

This action will be vital preparation for any escalated action that needs to be taken.

NUPE voted at its conference in Scarborough this week, for indefinite strike action with emergency cover. This represents a hardening of the mood as health workers begin to realise that this could be a long and bitter dispute.

The Tories have shown that where workers participate in limited industrial action, like the Civil Servants in their prolonged and exhausting 21 week strike, the Government are prepared to ride it out.

The NHS workers' action also reflects the rapidly changing understanding of Health workers, having learnt a lot from the 1979 battle and the experience of the callous Tory attacks. They clearly see that it is necessary to take an absolutely firm stand to fight for the right to a decent standard of living.

Joint Shop Steward Committees and strike committees should be set up where they do not already exist, to plan and co-ordinate action at a local level. Regular mass meetings should be held in every hospital, plans for picketing and emergency cover must be made.

The role of these committees will be paramount,

HEALTH WORKERS

especially in an indefinite strike situation, when in reality health workers themselves will be controlling admissions and in effect running the hospital.

A clear lead from the top will undoubtedly gain a tremendous response from the rank and file. Leaflets, posters and stickers should be produced so that leafletting of the public can take place.

These preparations are vital not only for the effectiveness of the two 24 hour strikes but to build and develop the involvement of all health workers in preparation for all-out action not as an empty threat but a necessary action to be taken up by all unions.

But this must not be a fight of health workers alone. Whilst it is true that we could, by stepping up our action, apply increasing pressure on the Govern-

ment, for the quickest possible victory with the least suffering to our patients, the whole of the trade union movement must add their weight to our battle.

The Tories must not be allowed to take advantage of us any longer. The gut reaction of other powerful sections of workers is to give us support, as already demonstrated by the NUM when several pits came out in solidarity with our 24 hour action last week.

The NUPE waterworkers have already declared their willingness to strike on behalf of their brothers and sisters in the NHS.

The decision by other union conferences such as ASLEF to pledge their support must be translated into well planned and co-ordinated action by the TUC who must now work as closely as possible with

the Health Services Committee.

A national demonstration and rally should be called, well prepared in advance with special trains and coaches arranged. This would bring all sections of health workers together from all areas of the country, to show to the Tories the massive feeling of anger, their willingness to struggle and their determination to fight and win a living wage.

The fight taking place by health workers is vital to the health service as a whole, for without a dramatic rise in pay workers will not be able to afford to stay within the health service.

The fundamental right to the highest standard of health care for working people is essential. A victory for health workers will be a victory for the whole working class.

ROF Birtley: Management renege on wage agreement

41 CPSA members at Royal Ordnance Factory in Birtley, are on strike, after the management gave 5 days notice that they were withdrawing a national agreement on working hours. As a result of a past agreement, CPSA members supervised industrial workers on a 40-hour week. Civil Service Workers are on a 37 hour week so Birtley workers took a £45 per year cut in basic salary, whilst having to work 3 hours overtime each week.

Management have now withdrawn the overtime as part of a cost-cutting exercise and workers will lose £38/month salary. But because the industrial workforce still have to be supervised the management insist that CPSA members be available for work whenever they are needed. Management will decide what hours each worker has to work.

Although the Union were prepared to negotiate savings by allowing a token coverage of the factory dur-

ing weekends etc, management refused entry to the factory for the National CPSA Official. Initially 14 members struck, but action escalated after Easter.

On the picket line, all strikers are involved in picket duty. Railway workers have refused to handle rail deliveries to the factory, and there has been a good response from lorry drivers, with only a few crossing the picket.

The strike is very important for the trade union movement as a whole. If the

ROF management are allowed to get away with this blatant action then the gate will be open for attacks on CPSA members in other ROF works throughout the country.

Support the ROF workers! Send donations and messages of support to: Denis Duffy, 31 Mount Rd., Birtley, Tyne & Wear.

Steve Black interviewed CPSA members at ROF Birtley